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Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary in Kansas is Verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

August 8, 2012 (Valley Center, KS) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary as of July 1, 2012.

Verification means that Hope in the Valley meets the criteria of a true equine sanctuary/rescue and is providing humane and responsible care of the animals. To be awarded Verified status, an organization must meet GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care standards which are confirmed by a site visit and they must also adhere to a demanding set of ethical and operational principles.

"We are pleased to announce the verification of Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. "This organization not only provides quality care for a large number of homeless horses in Kansas, but they also are committed to educating their community about equine neglect and abuse." Ande Miller, Board President of Hope in the Valley, stated, "We, at Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary, are grateful to GFAS for the opportunity to improve the care of our wonderful equine companions. We are proud to be able to say that we live up to the standards that these animals deserve. As a Verified facility, we will continue to make changes for the betterment of their care. We want to thank GFAS for their assistance and advice in helping us to achieve our goals while we care for and love the horses."

Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue and Sanctuary (HITVERAS) was awarded a compliance grant by GFAS to help make recommended improvements to meet Accreditation/Verification Standards. Compliance grant funding is made possible through a grant from PetSmart Charities®.

The GFAS Equine Accreditation Program is made possible by generous grants from PetSmart Charities® and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®.

About Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries worldwide. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting sanctuaries is to ensure they are supported, honored, recognized and rewarded for meeting important criteria in providing care to the animals in residence. GFAS was founded in 2007 by animal protection leaders from a number of different organizations in response to virtually unchecked and often hidden exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. The GFAS Board of Directors guides the organization's work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States,

International Fund for Animal Welfare, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and National Anti-Vivisection Society.
www.sanctuaryfederation.org.

About Hope in the Valley Equine Sanctuary and Rescue

Hope in the Valley is a Rescue/Sanctuary for horses that have been abused, neglected, starved, abandoned and left for slaughter. We bring them into shelter, doctor them, and rehabilitate them so they can be placed in loving, forever homes. Those who are unable to be placed, due to physical or psychological issues, are moved to the Sanctuary to spend the rest of their lives with us. For more information, visit www.hopeinthevalleyequinerescue.org or call 1-316-519-4129.

About PetSmart Charities®

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities® has provided more than \$134 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 4.7 million pets through its in-store adoption program. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS (7387).

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as the nation's leading voice for animal welfare. One million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. The ASPCA, which is headquartered in New York City, offers a wide range of programs, including a mobile clinic outreach initiative, its own humane law enforcement team, and a groundbreaking veterinary forensics team and mobile animal CSI unit. For more information, please visit www.aspca.org. To become a fan of the ASPCA on Facebook, go to <http://www.facebook.com/aspca>. To follow the ASPCA on Twitter, go to <http://www.twitter.com/aspca>.