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Dusty Trails Horse Rescue is the First to be Verified in Alabama by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

January 10, 2013 (Montgomery, AL) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Dusty Trails Horse Rescue as of December 30, 2012.

Verification means that Dusty Trails (DTHR) 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.

"Dusty Trails Horse Rescue is an essential resource for at-risk horses in Alabama," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. "Most of Dusty Trail's work involves helping equines at the center of legal cruelty cases. These horses often suffer from severe starvation and health issues requiring high levels of expertise to bring them back to health. Countless hours are devoted to helping each horse gain health and ultimately find a new home."

"Dusty Trails Horse Rescue started in 2005 when my husband and I were trying to find assistance for a horse that was being neglected by its owners," explained Monika Orendorf, President of DTHR. "Since then, with the help of our volunteers, we have rescued over 100 horses." She continued, "We've strived to help so many horses and GFAS Verification feels like a validation that we are not only doing right by these animals, but doing it the right way. We are grateful to GFAS for setting the bar for animal rescues. We are funded only by donations and grants and we hope GFAS Verification will raise our visibility in Alabama."

Dusty Trails Horse Rescue (DTHR) 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 Dusty Trails Horse Rescue

Dusty Trails Horse Rescue is a 501(c)3 non profit in Montgomery, Alabama. We works with local law enforcement and the Humane Society to respond to complaints of horse neglect or abuse. In some cases, the rescue will work with animal owners to educate them on proper care. If this is not successful and the animals must be seized, they find a home a Dusty Trails. From there, the rescue's volunteers work to rehabilitate the horses and place them in caring adoptive homes. For more information, visit www.dustytrailshorserescue.org or call 334-284-2122.

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>.