



Contact: Patty Finch, Executive Director
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org
928.472.1173

Carol Heiden, Executive Director
Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center
director@ctrcinc.org
303.652.9131 ext. 101

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Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center is Accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

February 20, 2012 (Longmont, CO) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Accredited status to Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center, December 15, 2011.

Accreditation signifies that Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center meets GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed equine care standards which are confirmed by a site visit and has also demonstrated adherence to standards addressing the sustainability of the organization, ethical principles, finances, staffing, education outreach, security and safety and other operational aspects.

"We are especially pleased to see therapeutic riding programs provide a lifelong home for the horses that have served their clients so well;," said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. "This commitment is characteristic of an organization that highly values both partners in the human-animal team. We hope to see more therapeutic programs follow CTRC's example in both their values and in the excellence demonstrated by the quality of their organizational management and their facility," she continued.

"We at the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center (CTRC) are honored to have achieved Accreditation by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, said Carol Heiden, Executive Director. "The GFAS mission 'to promote excellence in sanctuary management and in humane care of animals through international accreditation, collaboration, mentoring, and greater recognition and resources for sanctuaries, while seeking to eliminate the causes of displaced animals' is one that CTRC embraces wholeheartedly. The Standards of Excellence they set are rigorous and CTRC is proud to have successfully participated in their meticulous accreditation process. It benefits CTRC on so many levels to have had GFAS take such an in-depth look at our organization, our facility and our Sanctuary practices. We are thrilled to have earned the scrupulous approval of GFAS and are excited about the tremendous possibilities our future collaborations will provide CTRC and the horses we serve," she continued.

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 Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center

The Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center (CTRC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization devoted to the mission of promoting the physical, psychological and social well-being of persons with disabilities through their interaction with a therapeutic team consisting of a horse, an instructor and/or a therapist, and volunteers. Since 1980, CTRC, a PATH International Premier Accredited center in Longmont, Colorado, has been a pioneer in the field of Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy. Each year we strive to offer premier equine-assisted services programming by personalizing goals, integrating the newest techniques and providing an environment that is not only safe but fosters personal growth, development of skills and overall success. We measure our success only by the success of our riders. Our service programming includes Therapeutic Riding, Hippotherapy, All Abilities Integrated Summer Camps and Mini Troopers . CTRC currently serves over 400 riders and campers through our dynamic programs, over 500 members of our community through our outreach and education program and has an impressive work force of over 1,000 volunteers each year. For additional information on Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center, visit www.ctrinc.org.

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>.