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## Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement in Connecticut is Accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

May 31, 2012 (Salem, CT) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Accredited status to Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement, Inc. as of May 11, 2012.

Accreditation signifies that Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement 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.

“Mitchell Farm is an incredible role model in combining the compassion of equine welfare with “no nonsense” non-profit management best practices,” said Jeannine Alexander, GFAS Deputy Director-Equine. “They demonstrate that a moderate sized organization with a modest budget can put all of the components together to create a professional, well-run organization. They have built a structure that protects the long term welfare of the horses in their care. We believe that any equine organization that ultimately wants to function in the best interest of their horses will follow their example and commit to putting each piece of the non-profit management puzzle in place,” she continued.

“Mitchell Farm is extremely pleased and proud to receive recognition by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries with Accredited status. Our hats off to GFAS for setting standards and tangible goals for equine welfare facilities that we can all be proud of. The accreditation process has been a valuable growth experience,” said Dee Doolittle, Executive Director/Founder.

Mitchell Farm 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](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org).

### **About Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement**

Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement, Inc. in Salem, CT is permanent home to 29 older or infirm horses. Mitchell Farm provides for the on-going expense of our retirees full-care including veterinary, farrier, feed and housing. This effort

represents a viable way to address the issue that plagues the older and infirm horse and relieves already overburdened equine welfare organizations that rescue, rehabilitate and relocate.

#### **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](http://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](http://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>.