



Contact: Patty Finch  
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org  
928.472.1173

AnneMarie Cross  
[amc@cwer.org](mailto:amc@cwer.org)  
217-649-7915

## Crosswinds Equine Rescue in Illinois is Verified by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

March 4, 2013 (Sidell, IL) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Verified status to Crosswinds Equine Rescue is Verified as of March 4, 2013.

Verification means that Crosswinds Equine Rescue 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 very happy to announce the recent verification of Crosswinds. This rescue is providing a safe, stable environment while carefully evaluating each horse before making them available for adoption. This sound, methodical approach helps to ensure horses are adopted into suitable, loving homes," said Jeannine Alexander, Deputy Director of GFAS.

"Crosswinds Equine Rescue, Inc. is thrilled to have had the opportunity to earn GFAS verification. In a global world of fundraising, having an internationally recognized verification of how we handle not only our animal care but also our finances and long term planning can make a world of difference. GFAS has an impeccable reputation and we are honored to be considered for verification.," states AnnMarie Cross, President & Founding Director.

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 in the United States and abroad. 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 hidden animal exploitation of animals for human entertainment and financial profit. These founding leaders sit on the GFAS Board of Directors to continue guiding the organization's work in a collaborative manner. They represent top leadership from Born Free USA, The Humane Society of the United States, World Society for the Protection of Animals, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and International Fund for Animal Welfare.

For additional information on Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, visit [www.sanctuaryfederation.org](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org).

### **About Crosswinds Equine Rescue, Inc.**

Crosswinds Equine Rescue, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit Illinois corporation and one of very few equine rescues that have applied for and earned an IL Animal Rescue Facility License, Class Equine. CWER is located in Sidell IL (east central IL, 90 minutes west of Indianapolis), and was founded in 2003. Our driving focus is to rescue, rehab, retrain, and rehome at risk horses, whether that be from neglect or abuse, starvation or improper past training/equipment/care, giving them a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance at a successful relationship and life in our human-equine world. CWER's board reaches from Pennsylvania to Nebraska, and focuses upon assisting animals that can benefit from our training and rehab focus, often taking 'dangerous' or 'damaged' horses and putting them on track to successful careers in showing, competing, or simply being a great partner at home to the right adopter. We pay zero salaries, even when providing training, farrier care and owner education to outside clients. All funds go to assisting the horses. To learn more please visit [www.cwer.org](http://www.cwer.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](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>.