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Fauna Foundation: First GFAS Accredited Sanctuary in Canada

“Fauna is unique in that it not only provides a safe haven for the chimpanzees and monkeys in its care who were rescued from research, but for other animals in need as well,” says **Patty Finch, Executive Director, GFAS.**

(Montréal, QC) – The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the premier organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries worldwide, announced today that Fauna Foundation Sanctuary in Carignan, Quebec became the first sanctuary in Canada to receive GFAS Accreditation. The accreditation signifies that Fauna implements clear and respected international standards, covering not only humane care of the animals, but also the sustainability of the organization, its finances, staffing, education outreach, security and safety and other operational aspects.

“GFAS is proud to bestow Accreditation status on the Fauna Foundation Sanctuary,” says Patty Finch, Executive Director of GFAS. “ Fauna is unique in that it not only provides a safe haven for the

chimpanzees and monkeys in its care who were rescued from research, but for other animals in need as well. As first to receive GFAS accreditation, we trust Fauna will serve as a model for sanctuaries throughout Canada. Fauna has worked hard to establish exceptional standards of animal care, housing and enrichment for chimpanzees and other residents. We have every expectation that Fauna will continue to accomplish great things on behalf of animals.”

Established in 1997, the Fauna Foundation has built a magnificent 200 acre sanctuary in which 12 chimpanzees and dozens of animals from monkeys to horses, goats, chickens, pigs, and others live in safety and in the company of their own species. Resident primates have access to spacious yet controlled environments where they can play, eat, socialize, communicate and sleep as they wish. Key to Fauna’s success is its ability to rehabilitate animals who have suffered from years of abuse or neglect. Fauna founder and director, Gloria Grow, is recognized as a leading expert on the trauma and recovery of chimpanzees rescued from research. She has co-authored papers on the topic published in major peer reviewed psychology journals. In addition to direct animal care and general supervision of sanctuary operations, Ms. Grow lectures both in Canada and throughout the US and world on the plight of chimpanzees from research. She serves as co-chair of Project R&R: Release and Restitution for Chimpanzees in U.S. Laboratories, a campaign of NEAVS, Boston Ma which spearheaded national US efforts to end the use of chimpanzees in research. Fauna Sanctuary has played a key role in moving these efforts forward including Fauna’s Tom, who died in 2009, serving as the chimpanzee ambassador for the campaign. Fauna’s philosophy includes not only a commitment to the direct care of its residents, but also collaborative work with other organizations to end the causes of animal use, abuse and neglect which make sanctuaries necessary in the first place.

Says Grow, “Working as we do to provide exceptional standards of care for all of our residents makes our acknowledgment in this accreditation particularly rewarding. To be recognized by a global organization that assesses sanctuaries worldwide is further affirmation that we are accomplishing what we set out to accomplish. We are making a true difference for everyone who calls Fauna home.”

For more information on GFAS, please visit www.sanctuaryfederation.org. For Fauna Foundation, please visit www.faunafoundation.org.

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

About Fauna Foundation

Fauna Foundation is a Canadian nonprofit organization that provides rescue and lifetime care for animals who suffered from use, abuse or neglect. It incorporates over 150 acres of dedicated Natural Reserve providing protection for indigenous wildlife and flora. Fauna has been the focus of several radio, TV documentaries and written works including for National Geographic, CBC, Discovery, The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary, (HarperCollins – Can., Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – US.) and an award winning documentary by PBS. Fauna is a founding member of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance and has been the recipient of several prestigious awards including the International Fund for Animal Welfare's Animal Action Award and the Academy of Veterinary Medicine's le Prix Ani-bon. For more information visit: faunafoundation.org