October 31, 2018

Laurie Jackson, Director of Operations
Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc.
5623 New Milford Road
Ravenna, OH 44266

Dear Laurie,

It is my pleasure to confirm that Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. is Verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries as of October 31, 2018. Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Inc. has been found to be compliant with GFAS Verification standards of humane and responsible animal care.

The Accreditation Committee commends you, your staff, and volunteers for your commitment to helping animals in need in Ohio. The Committee was particularly impressed with your organization’s understanding of, and attention given to, individual animal needs and well-maintained housing facilities. The Committee also felt that the organization’s commitment to a successful adoption and foster home program for the animals broadened impact over time through these capacity building strategies.

As part of the Verification process, GFAS likes to offer possible goals for each Verified rescue organization to help you work toward Accreditation or Re-Verification. These goals are not meant to be an exhaustive list of everything needed for Accreditation or Re-Verification. However, these goals highlight either items discussed during the site visit, items that might be necessary for accreditation or items that will strengthen the organization in general.

1) Animals should be protected as much as possible from fire. This includes not storing more than the daily ration of hay and/or bedding in the same building in which animals are housed. It is recommended not to store hay in the loft of the horse barn, if equines are to be confined to this space.

2) If ground feeding birds are isolated for social reasons, all efforts are made to find a suitable social group within the facility or at another accredited institution; solitary housing is temporary. It is recommended that the behavioral/psychological well-being of solitary housed ground feeding birds is evaluated and addressed, and a welfare plan and report is part of the bird’s file. It is recommended that a formal, written enrichment program that promotes species-appropriate behavioral opportunities and ensures captive ground feeding birds’ psychological well-being is created and implemented. All avian care staff are trained to recognize abnormal behavior and clinical signs of illness. Measures of well-being that are assessed include: species appropriate behavior and interaction with other birds and the bird’s ability to respond appropriately to variable environmental conditions, physiological states, developmental stages, and social situations as well as adverse stimuli.

3) It is recommended that the organization create written acquisition, disposition, and preventative/veterinary care policies.
An award of GFAS Verification is normally for three years. During this time, you may be asked to provide some routine information such as changes in the number of residents or changes in contact information. It is expected your organization will continue to comply with standards of care during the three-year period, will work on any areas identified by GFAS as needing attention or improvement, and will respond to any requests made by GFAS.

Sincerely,

Valerie Taylor  
Program Director - Equine and Farm Animals  
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries