

Alaqua Animal Refuge of Freeport, Florida is Now Accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries



March 26, 2024 (Freeport, FL) - The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Accredited status to Alaqua Animal Refuge as of March 1, 2024.

Accreditation signifies that Alaqua Animal Refuge meets GFAS's rigorous and peer-reviewed animal care standards which are confirmed by a comprehensive site visit. Accreditation also signifies adherence to standards addressing the sustainability of the organization, ethical principles, finances, staffing, education outreach, security and safety and other operational aspects. The Accreditation status also provides a clear and trusted means for the public, donors, and grantors to recognize Alaqua Animal Refuge as an exceptional organization.

"We are very proud to announce the transition from Verified to Accredited status for Alaqua Animal Refuge," said Jessica Harris, MS, GFAS Program

Director-Farmed Animals. "With GFAS Verification achieved in 2012, this organization became completely committed to achieve GFAS Accreditation and they have succeeded. Their facility has expanded from primarily a companion animal and equine rescue, to a complex, multifaceted rescue operation and sanctuary serving 500 or more animals of hundreds of unique species each year. Their services for animals and the community, in a region where so many animals are in need, is visionary and crucial. Their experienced staff and volunteer team is clearly devoted not only to best practices of sanctuary care and rehabilitation and release, but also governance and management best practices, ensuring a lasting and successful animal welfare organization."

"Alaqua firmly believes in providing shelter, safety, and second chances to animals in need. Many of the animals we take care of have been victims of neglect and abuse, and we ensure they receive the care they deserve. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all of our animals thrive and to educate the community about their needs. Being recognized by GFAS as an accredited sanctuary is an immense honor that proves our commitment to upholding the best practices in animal welfare and protection. 'It's an immense honor,' stated Alaqua founder, Laurie Hood."

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, rescues, and rehabilitation centers worldwide. The goal of GFAS in working with and assisting these animal care facilities 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. While the board includes those in top leadership at The Humane Society of the United States, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and American Anti-Vivisection Society, all board members serve as individuals dedicated to animal sanctuaries. www.sanctuaryfederation.org.



About Alaqua Animal Refuge

Animal Refuge is a one-of-a-kind, no-kill facility founded in 2007. Located on 100-acres in Freeport, FL, the Refuge is located about 20 minutes north of the Emerald Coast. Their mission is to be a leading advocate for all animals, to maximize the healing power animals have on the human spirit, and to provide shelter, safety, and second chances to animals in need. Since its founding year, Alaqua has helped find homes for tens of thousands of animals, with over 100 adoptions completed each month. Alaqua prides itself on providing only the best quality living conditions for its animals. They have developed multiple programs that serve members of the community in all walks of life, from young children with developmental delays and special needs to senior citizens who can benefit from the companionship of one of our animals. To learn more about their work and future plans, visit www.alaqua.org