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It's a Happy Holiday for Rescued Animals AAVS awards over \$60,000 for sanctuaries

Jenkintown, PA—Animals rescued from laboratories will have a happy holiday season this year, thanks in part to the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), which is awarding over \$60,000 in grants for sanctuaries that provide haven for animals formerly used in research and testing. Nearly 300 animals, including chimpanzees and several other primate species, will benefit from this special gift.

AAVS is the first animal-protection organization in the U.S. dedicated specifically to ending the use of animals in science, and this commitment is furthered by providing direct assistance to animals rescued from laboratories or exploited in other ways.

“During these tough economic times, we strongly feel that it is more important than ever to provide funding and support for sanctuaries that care for rescued laboratory animals,” stated Sue Leary, President of AAVS. “Our mission to end the use of animals in research and testing is really only complete when we help provide haven for animals saved from experimentation.”

Among the many animals benefiting from this gift are Phinneous, whose life began in the harsh environment of a lab as his mother gave birth to him while strapped in a restraint chair; Stanley, a handsome sorrel Belgian horse bred for pharmacology production; Ernie Keebler, who narrowly escaped being used in iron toxicity and schizophrenia studies; and Annie, a mother of five whose babies were taken from her so that they could be used in research. Now residing at Mindy’s Memory Primate Sanctuary, Ryerss’ Farm for Aged Equines, Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, and Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, respectively, all four now have healed and live in peace, thanks in part to funding awarded by the Tina Nelson Sanctuary Fund, a special donation program of AAVS in which 100% of all gifts go to provide care for animals.

“I’ve visited animals recently rescued from labs, and have been able to see them again after becoming settled in their new sanctuary homes,” said Leary. “While there is no question that animals used in research suffer immensely, there is no doubt that rescued animals in sanctuaries are transformed and enjoy life as similar as possible to their wild kind. It is gratifying to play a role in this positive process.”

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The American Anti-Vivisection Society is the first non-profit animal advocacy and educational organization in the United States dedicated to ending the use of animals in



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research, testing and education. Founded in Philadelphia in 1883, AAVS pursues its objectives through legal and effective advocacy, education, and support of the development of non-animal alternative methods.

The Tina Nelson Sanctuary Fund is a special gift program of AAVS. Established in 2005, it honors the memory of a former executive director who greatly enjoyed working with sanctuaries. Tina Nelson died at 48 years of age.