

## **GFAS Incident/Accident Policy**

This policy is designed to outline the purpose and procedure for accepting, responding to, and analyzing notification of incidents and accidents which occur at GFAS Accredited and Verified sanctuary facilities. It is important to note that the reporting of an incident or accident to GFAS by a sanctuary facility does not take the place of any requirements for a sanctuary facility to report such to appropriate and required legal and/or governmental authorities. As a part of the Accreditation/Verification process, GFAS is committed to helping sanctuaries create and put policies in place which promote and enforce health and safety guidelines to avoid such occurrences and expects sanctuaries and sanctuary personnel to comply with such. However, accidents are sometimes inevitable. Our provision in this case is to ensure all accidents are discovered and reported in a timely manner so they can be analyzed properly for any areas of noncompliance with GFAS Standards and preventative measures can be reviewed and reinforced.

1. Notification of occurrences at GFAS Accredited and Verified facilities can be communicated to GFAS by telephone, mail, e-mail, or in person.
2. Occurrences that should be reported include any incidents that may cause severe injuries or death or incidents that are results of negligence or inadequate safety precautions and/or sanctuary procedures. Occurrences that require investigation/action/change in policy and/or procedures at the sanctuary facility should be reported. Notification, generally within 48 hours or as soon as possible, to GFAS, is required for any of the following:
  - Human Fatalities
  - Human injury which requires hospitalization or extensive medical care
  - Animal escapes from enclosures or sanctuary property, resulting in serious injury or death of animal(s) and/or human(s)
  - Animal escapes from sanctuary property and is not able to be recaptured
3. A GFAS Program Director will contact the reporting sanctuary facility, to confirm receipt of notification, to help determine nature of occurrence, and/or to collect additional or supportive information.
4. The GFAS Program Director provides support and any available and appropriate resources to assist facilities in the completion any appropriate actions and recommendations. It is the goal of GFAS to work in tandem with facilities to provide guidance, support, and all available and appropriate resources to promote best practices and ensure on-going alignment with GFAS Standards.