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ANIMAL PLANET HIGHLIGHTS ONE ORGANIZATION’S MISSION TO PROTECT AND RESCUE ANIMALS IN NEW SERIES *THE GUARDIANS*

-- THE GUARDIANS Premieres Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 10PM ET/PT --

(New York – December 2, 2016) – What happens when animals are in distress and can’t advocate for themselves? Guardians of Rescue step in. In this all-new series, Animal Planet introduces this volunteer-run organization called Guardians of Rescue and follows its quest to help any animal in need – anywhere, anytime. **THE GUARDIANS** premieres Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 10 PM ET/PT on Animal Planet.

THE GUARDIANS features Guardians of Rescue founder and President Rob Misseri and his dynamic team: Dori, Moose, Brian, Face, Marceline, Ms. Elle, Amanda and Bill. Though they may be an eclectic team – ex-military personnel, retired police detectives, former FBI investigators, carpenters, electricians and even former convicts and gang members – they unite in their passion and dedication for animal advocacy. With this group, first impressions are not always what they seem. When an animal is in need, their tough facade washes away and clients see their true love and compassion come forth.

“Guardians of Rescue are everyday heroes. Their passion for helping and protecting animals makes us proud to share their rescue stories with our audiences,” said Patrice Andrews, General Manager of Animal Planet.

From neutering feral cats and removing puppies from violent situations, to renovating an RV for a veteran and his dogs and building new enclosures for animals in need, there is no task the Guardians of Rescue won’t do. In partnership with Save-A-Pet Rescue in Long Island and a network of volunteers from all over the world, Guardians of Rescue work to educate and motivate pet lovers to better the lives of their animals, no matter how big or small the change may be.

THE GUARDIANS is produced for Animal Planet by Earth Touch USA. For Earth Touch USA, Brian V. O’Toole is executive producer, Phil Fairclough is managing director, Christopher Voos is co-executive producer and Nate Scripture is vice president of production. For Animal Planet, Dawn Sinsel is executive producer, and Meredith Russell is associate producer.

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About Animal Planet

Animal Planet, a multi-media business unit of Discovery Communications, is the network of hit franchise series **RIVER MONSTERS**, **PIT BULLS & PAROLEES** and **TREEHOUSE MASTERS** and the home of provocative and award-winning specials and documentary films presented under the banner **ANIMAL PLANET PRESENTS**. Animal Planet's programming also includes quarterly tent pole TV events **PUPPY BOWL**, the largest non-sports TV on Super Bowl Sunday, and **MONSTER WEEK**. Animal Planet is the premiere TV, digital and social community for animal lovers and pet owners, providing immersive, engaging, high-quality entertainment across all Animal Planet assets including: Animal Planet television network, available in more than 94 million homes in the US, that is complimented with a deep Video On Demand offering; online assets www.animalplanet.com, the ultimate online destination for all things animal; Animal Planet L!VE, the go-to digital destination for round-the-clock, unfiltered access to the animal kingdom; Animal Planet social including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

About Discovery Communications

Discovery Communications (Nasdaq: DISCA, DISCB, DISCK) satisfies curiosity and engages superfans with a portfolio of premium nonfiction, sports and kids programming brands. Reaching 3 billion cumulative viewers across pay-TV and free-to-air platforms in more than 220 countries and territories, Discovery's portfolio includes the global brands Discovery Channel, TLC, Investigation Discovery, Animal Planet, Science and Turbo/Velocity, as well as OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network in the U.S., Discovery Kids in Latin America, and Eurosport, the leading provider of locally relevant, premium sports content across Europe. Discovery reaches audiences across screens through digital-first programming from Discovery VR, Seeker and SourceFed Studios, as well as over-the-top and TV Everywhere offerings including Eurosport Player, Dplay, Discovery Kids Play and Discovery GO. For more information, please visit www.discoverycommunications.com.