This past month, PrideRock Wildlife Refuge achieved a milestone that has been years in the making – GFAS Verification.

GFAS, or the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, is the only globally recognized organization providing the standards and strict regulations to deem whether an organization is a TRUE sanctuary. The care of the animals and construction of the facility are rigorously examined, as well as the mission and values of the organization. Once an organization meets the extensive preliminary requirements, verification is awarded. However, verification is only the beginning of the journey. PrideRock now has a three-year window to complete the very large remaining tasks to achieve full GFAS Accreditation. This includes a complete renovation of older enclosures. This will be an incredibly huge job, and one that comes...
with high expenses, but we are so excited to embark on this next chapter of PrideRock operations.

A 2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit

Along with GFAS Verification, PrideRock also was recently named a GreatNonprofits Top-Rated Nonprofit for 2017

This is another honor that we are thrilled to have bestowed upon us. At PrideRock, everything is done with the animals in mind, so to have that recognized is a true gift. This is achieved by stories submitted by the public to GreatNonprofits about the work that we do here at PrideRock Wildlife Refuge.

PrideRock also achieved Top-Rated nonprofit status in 2016 with the help of volunteers, donors, and other affiliates that took the time out of their busy days to write a short review about the work done at PrideRock.

If you have a story of your own about PrideRock that you would like share, please visit Greatnonprofits.org and search for PrideRock Wildlife Refuge. You will be able to share your story and review PrideRock there. We are looking forward to reading them!

Along with this, you can also share PrideRock’s GreatNonprofits profile page to your very own social media pages!
Giving Tuesday on the Horizon

This rapidly growing global day of giving is fast approaching, so help us kick off the holiday giving spirit!

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

November 28, 2017

In lieu of national days of deals such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday is the day to give back. Giving Tuesday has grown tremendously over past years, and it has become the kick-off day for the holiday giving season. Occurring this year on November 28th, Giving Tuesday will run the full 24 hours of the day. For nonprofits, these days of giving are vital lifelines to the continuing of operations. Mark your calendars, and help kick off the start of the season of giving with a bang! Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for updates and goals for the day.

Terrell’s Mascot

In August of 2017, it became official that our handsome Elijah will be the official mascot of Terrell ISD!
Elijah is a 6-year-old Siberian tiger from Missouri. He came to PrideRock as very small cub, and was raised and bottle-fed by PrideRock staff. He has grown to become a magnificent tiger, weighing over 500 pounds! Elijah is full of rambunctiousness and attitude, and we know that he will do Terrell ISD and the Terrell community proud.

While he is the mascot, he will still remain at PrideRock. Elijah’s comfort and home will not be disrupted, for Elijah will be communicated to the community digitally. We are very excited to see this relationship with TISD develop, and to see Elijah shine! This will be a great opportunity to educate on the importance of animal rights, as well as the importance of conserving the lives of these beautiful animals.

**Breaking Ground**

*It is a time of growth at PrideRock as a new enclosure begins construction!*

![Image](image-url)

PrideRock is excited to announce the start of a new tiger enclosure that will be the start of many new construction and renovation projects around the facility. PrideRock is in expansion mode, and we want to be the best we can be for the animals that we care for. The animals will be able to enjoy more space, enrichment, and comfort, and to us at PrideRock, that is our main priority.

Following the construction of this enclosure, many of the older enclosures will either be remodeled or rebuilt. This will be a very large and long-running project, but one that we at PrideRock are thrilled to begin. Every animal that comes to PrideRock is promised a permanent, comfortable, and fulfilling home, and this promise is at the forefront of all actions performed.
This promise is also driving this new time of expansion, and we cannot wait to see its outcome.

**Our Houstonian Intern**

Fall arrived, and so did a new intern!

Alex Thom is from Houston, Texas. She attended and graduated from the prestigious Rice University with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2016. She would like to use her degree to enter the animal care field, and is using her internship at PrideRock to delve into the world of exotic species. She has interned or volunteered at the Houston Zoo, the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, and the Humane society of Texas. While at the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, she nursed small mammals and baby birds back to health by hand-feeding them.

She says that her favorite thing about working with animals is the relationships and bonds that can formed through working closely with them. We are very happy to have her with us, and we know that she will do great this intern season!

**Stay in the Know**

As many of our supporters know, we are a little different from many other sanctuaries.

We are not open to the public, nor will we ever be, however that does not mean that there isn’t plenty to see! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to receive daily updates on the bustling activity here at PrideRock. Also, Facebook has changed their algorithms that dictate what is seen on the
newsfeed, and this has caused our Facebook reach to plummet. Now, in order to keep visibility up, organizations must pay expensive costs to ‘boost’ posts so followers can see them. However, there is a way that you can help with this! Help us stay visible by sharing, liking, and engaging in our posts. This helps put them in the newsfeed, and helps us grow our audience.

If you haven’t followed us yet, just search PrideRock Wildlife Refuge on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! Also, www.PrideRock.org is full of great content, including the history of the facility, information on the animals here, exciting volunteer and internship opportunities, and much more!