



Wednesday 18 August 2021

Animal charities join forces to urge PM to give urgent help to Afghanistan animal rescue

Compassion in World Farming, RSPCA and World Animal Protection urge safe evacuation of Nowzad's staff, their families and animals in the shelter from Kabul

Compassion in World Farming, RSPCA and World Animal Protection have appealed to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to safely evacuate a Kabul animal welfare charity's staff and their families as a matter of urgency.

A joint letter, signed by Philip Lymbery, Global CEO of Compassion in World Farming, Steve Mclvor, CEO of World Animal Protection, and Chris Sherwood Chief Executive of the RSPCA, explains how Nowzad staff and their families, who stayed behind to care for the animals in their care, are now in danger due to the tragic situation in Afghanistan.

[Nowzad](#) - founded by former British Royal Marine Pen Farthing - works to relieve the suffering of animals in Afghanistan including companion animals, working equines and abandoned cats and dogs. The charity has also raised awareness of the importance of animal care and welfare through the provision of information and education to the people of Afghanistan. Celebrities Dame Judi Dench, Peter Egan, and Ricky Gervais have also thrown their support behind their plight.

The Nowzad animal shelter has succeeded in saving the lives of thousands of animals, and they have found new homes for animals both nationally and internationally.

RSPCA Chief Executive Chris Sherwood said: "We are delighted the Prime Minister yesterday drew attention to the plight of the Nowzad team in Parliament and we now urge the UK Government to convert these warm words into action to help the staff from Nowzad, their families, and the animals in their care escape this tragic and dangerous situation as a matter of urgency."

Steve Mclvor, Chief Executive of World Animal Protection, said: "The tragic events in Afghanistan mean that the lives of 200 dogs and cats and staff at British animal welfare charity Nowzad are currently in critical danger in Kabul. We urge the British Prime Minister to

do all he can do to arrange the safe evacuation of the staff and animals at the earliest possible opportunity."

Philip Lymbery, Global CEO of Compassion in World Farming, said: "Like so many, we are deeply concerned about recent events in Afghanistan. We urge the UK government to demonstrate global leadership on animal welfare by arranging for the urgent and safe evacuation of Nowzad staff and their families, along with all the animals from the charity's centre in Kabul."

Ends

Notes to editors

Copy of letter [here](#)

RSPCA contacts:

Press office direct lines: 0300 123 0244/0288 E-mail: press@rspca.org.uk www.rspca.org.uk/media twitter: @rspca_official facebook.com/rspca	Cruelty Line 0300 1234 999 RSPCA Southwater West Sussex RH13 9XH	Duty press officer (evenings and weekends) 07825 158490
---	--	--

- For World Animal protection media enquiries please contact georgewhite@worldanimalprotection.org.uk or call 020 7239 0632
- For Compassion in World Farming media enquiries, please contact media.team@ciwf.org or call 01483 521615.

If you no longer wish to receive press releases from us please email press@rspca.org.uk to unsubscribe.

About World Animal Protection

World Animal Protection has moved the world to protect animals for more than 50 years. World Animal Protection works to give animals a better life. Its activities include working with companies to ensure high-standards of welfare for the animals in their care, working with governments and other stakeholders to prevent wild animals being cruelly traded, trapped or killed, and saving the lives of animals and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them in disaster situations.

World Animal Protection influences decision makers to put animals on the global agenda, and it inspires people to protect animals and to change animals' lives for the better. More information on can be found at: www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk

About Compassion in World Farming

Compassion in World Farming was founded in 1967 by a British dairy farmer who became horrified at the development of intensive factory farming. Today Compassion is the leading farm animal welfare organisation dedicated to ending factory farming and achieving humane and sustainable food. With headquarters in the UK, we have offices across Europe, in the US, China and South Africa. To find out more about Compassion in World Farming visit: www.ciwf.org