

Nowzad and H/3 Foundation Complete Operation Ark, Evacuating Nearly 170 Animals and an Entire Rescue Team from Kabul, Afghanistan



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In partnership with Nowzad, H/3 funded and helped coordinate the perilous evacuation of Pen Farthing, his team, and the dogs and cats in their care – out of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and on to safety in the United Kingdom



STAMFORD, Conn., October 15, 2021 -- In August, as Kabul fell to the Taliban, the H/3 Foundation team spent two weeks of round-the-clock rescue efforts to fund and help coordinate the evacuation of Pen Farthing, his Nowzad team, and the dogs and cats in their care – through Taliban-controlled territory and on to safety in the United Kingdom. The wartime rescue effort

began with a single message: after seeing news of Nowzad's plight, H/3's Founder and Chairman, Spencer B. Haber, immediately reached out to offer H/3's support and assistance. In recounting the initial interaction with Spencer, Nowzad campaign coordinator Dominic Dyer quipped, "he did not need much convincing."

The Taliban takeover of Kabul forced the Nowzad team and its founder, former British Royal Marines commando Pen Farthing, to seek immediate evacuation in August. With H/3's coordination and funding, Nowzad planned the dangerous journey from its clinic to the Kabul airport, through Taliban-controlled territory. H/3's air lift carried Farthing, 94 dogs and 68 cats out of Afghanistan to London's Heathrow.

Operation ARK was not without complications, but eventually resulted in the Nowzad team – 68 staff members and their family members – also being successfully evacuated to Pakistan, and on to the U.K. The staff crossed into the safety of the British High Commission in Islamabad on September 11 – the 20th anniversary of the attacks that first sent Pen to Afghanistan.

"We have been blown away by the love and compassion shown by the Nowzad family of supporters," said Pen Farthing, Founder of Nowzad. "We truly owe them a debt of gratitude that we will never ever be able to repay."

Nowzad was founded by Pen, who had previously served as a Royal Marine in the Afghan town of Nowzad, in 2006. Pen recognized that street dogs and cats required championing, and has since reunited 1,600 dogs and cats with servicemen and servicewomen across the globe.

For H/3 Foundation, its crucial role in Operation ARK echoed some of its other, signature "direct action" initiatives. This was the same H/3 rapid-response spirit behind the Foundation's 2017 animal rescue in the British Virgin Islands after Hurricane Irma.

"When we saw what Pen, his team and the animals in their care were facing, there was no question but that we had to act," said Spencer B. Haber, Founder and Chairman of H/3 Foundation. "In the midst of a very dangerous evacuation with events unfolding in real time, there was simply no way that we were going to stand idly by and watch so many innocent animals and their brave caretakers get left behind. These were people who refused to abandon the animals who depended on them, in the middle of one of the most dangerous evacuations imaginable. Helping bring them all to safety – the rescuers and the rescued alike – is one of H/3's proudest moments."

About H/3 Foundation:

Founded by Spencer B. Haber in 2014, H/3 Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating game-changing progress for farm animals, wildlife and companion animals globally. To that end, H/3 creates, funds and supports a wide array of media content and storytelling, as well as humane education initiatives, direct action projects and animal rescue and first-responder organizations worldwide.

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About Nowzad:

Founded in 2006 by former British Royal Marine Pen Farthing, Nowzad is a charity dedicated to street dogs, cats and working animals. Operating a clinic in Kabul, Nowzad reunited some 1,600 dogs and cats with the servicemen and servicewomen who cared for them while deployed, and works to improve animal welfare in some of the world's most challenging conditions.

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