



## February 2010 Newsletter

By the time some of you read this the Nowzad Dogs charity will be three years old. Hard to believe really that what started out as an almost impossible mission by one Royal Marine to rescue an Afghan fighting dog from the depths of Helmand Province has grown into an internationally recognised charity.

We thought we would take this opportunity to recap on the last three years and introduce you to the current rescue operations and plans we are hatching for the future of the Nowzad Dogs charity.

The Nowzad Dogs charity is managed by unpaid civilians (we do not have any ties with military units), our mission statement to provide animal welfare for the animals of Afghanistan.

So we started off nearly three years ago assisting with the rescue of Nowzad, Tali, Jena and the only surviving pup – Helmand from the town of Now Zad, deep in Helmand Province. As most of you know, **Nowzad** and **Tali** now enjoy life with the former Royal Marine that first befriended them, **Jena** has a loving home in the USA and **Helmand** rules the roost on a farm in Wiltshire.

Since then we have helped reunite **FUBAR** with her Dutch Marine, **JACS** and **KAF** to their 'forever' homes in the US and **Hannah** to her new home in the west-country with the Royal Marine that first discovered her freezing to death as a puppy. We can report that **Arnhem** is happy terrorizing the home of the soldier that scooped him up from the desert floor, **Ryder** is getting used to his new surroundings since receiving all the all clear from quarantine and **Carla**, **Johnny**, **Ramone**, **Dru**, **Oreo** and **Brownie** are all safe in the USA

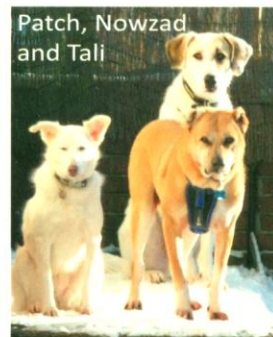
with the soldiers and contractors that they first befriended.

We can also happily report that **Juliet** and **Bagzir** are now living in Holland together with the soldier that saved Bagzir from a group of children that were abusing the Afghan pup.



**Wylie** is still a right handful but is doing well and does not seem to have any lasting problems

with her front legs since her two operations. The **Char Badmashis** are all living up to their hooligan collective name and keeping their new owners on their toes. **PATCH** due to unforeseen circumstances was homeless when quarantine ended and so **NOWZAD** and **TALI** took him on. Apart from getting through several pairs of shoes, the phone cable, TV speakers, more dog beds that we care to think about and driven us up the wall in the quest to house train him – **PATCH** is doing okay.



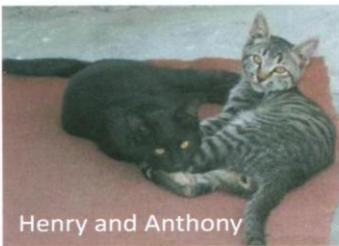
Big daft **Beardog** has been successfully re-homed by the Mayhew Animal Home on our behalf – thanks guys and a big thank you to Happy Landings for all their work with **Smudge!**

**Sandbag, Royal, Dirtbag** and **Hesco** the cat were rescued by the organisation 'Baghdad Animal Rescue' and all four are doing well in quarantine and waiting for the day they can go to their new homes that have been found for them. We were so impressed by the work of Louise who founded Baghdad Animal Rescue that we asked her if she would like to join Nowzad Dogs. So we are extremely pleased to announce that Baghdad Animal Rescue is now the Iraq operational wing of the Nowzad Dogs charity. All donations that we receive will be used for animal welfare in either Afghanistan or Iraq unless you specifically tell us otherwise.



**KILO** is counting down the days until she can go home with the soldiers' mum that has been regularly visiting her.

Plus we have **Henry** and **Anthony** – two Afghan cats that were discovered by a civilian contractor on her doorstep one cold morning in Kabul. Both were looking worse for wear and only weeks old. Both cats are now safe in quarantine and will eventually go to live with the contractors' family down on a farm along the south coast of the UK.



**Sidney** and **Watty** were discovered in appalling conditions in Afghanistan; **Sidney** who is actually a genuine Afghan hound was only days away from probably starving to death. Both dogs after intensive care are doing extremely well in UK quarantine and are destined to live with the UK reporter that first found them. Just recently we carried out a major operation to link up with the soldier who was looking after a dog called **OSO** (Spanish for Bear). With a fantastic fund raising effort from the wife of the soldier back in the USA we successfully managed to transport **OSO** to meet his new family!



We also have just collected **Bear** and **Buddy** from the depths of western Afghanistan, it took some doing and was slightly nail biting stuff trying to co-ordinate it all but we now have the two of them waiting at the Afghan rescue for transport to the US and the families of the soldiers waiting for them.



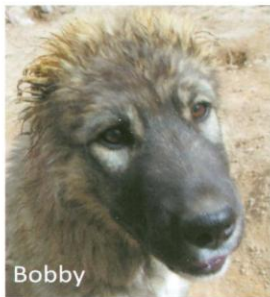
Our policy is not to rescue dogs out of Afghanistan that do not have homes to go to – sadly there are already enough homeless dogs in the west as it is.



However, we have had to bend our rules slightly. The Afghan companion animal shelter that we support recently could not cope with the number of strays that were turning up on the doorstep. Most were in need of immediate medical care. To ease the overcrowding situation we decided to step in and offer to re-home several of the dogs that had nowhere else to go once they had been treated.

**SAUSAGE** was hit by a car and left crawling through the snow and mud on the streets of Kabul. After nearly a year of being looked after at the Afghan shelter we are happy to say that

**SAUSAGE** will be arriving in the UK in April and after the compulsory quarantine period will be adopted by a loving family who have volunteered him a home. **JOEY** and **DONNA** are heading for the west coast of Canada to be found their own 'forever' homes and **JOY** is currently in quarantine in the UK waiting to be re-homed by the fabulous people at Labrador Retriever Rescue Southern England.



Bobby

This dog has come to our attention in the last week – **Bobby** is currently on a base in southern Afghanistan. **Bobby** is a loving Afghan stray that enjoys the soldiers company. He went missing a few days ago and came back onto the base minus his ears and tail. The lads are deeply concerned for his welfare as he has obviously been marked to become a fighting dog. Rest assured that we will do everything possible to rescue **Bobby**.



Sausage



Joy

Since the last news letter we have been able to send over 40 parcels of medical supplies including dog wormers, flea and tick treatment, blankets and surgical gloves to the Afghan rescue. Thank you so much to everybody who has donated supplies for the shelter.

We wanted to make sure everything was being put to good use so we sent out 'Pen' to visit the Afghan rescue late last year. (For those with internet access there is a video clip of the visit on the Nowzad Dogs website).

Pen explains..

"Well it was slightly worrying arriving in Afghanistan as a civilian this time, no weapon and no lads backing me up.. but I was met by Mohammad who was to be my guide for the duration of my time in Afghanistan who reassured me that we would be safe!

As soon as I walked through the door I was greeted by one of the residents of the Afghan rescue, a small brown ball of energy – a pup with no name! The shelter is extremely basic but provides the only service of its kind in Afghanistan. The dogs are all fed twice daily (rice and the occasional bits of goat) and have basic wooden dog cabins to hide from the elements. The main house contains the cat rooms – I was amazed at the number of cats that now call the shelter home – they definitely won't have a mouse problem. There is a cramped makeshift surgery that could



Pen at the Afghan shelter

definitely do with modernisation where neutering and other basic operations are carried out. Our aim for this year is to re-equip the surgery and update the dog cabins to more weather proof models.

I was impressed by the dedication of the Afghan staff who work at the shelter, life is not easy in Afghanistan at the best of times but they made sure that the dogs and cats are well looked after whilst at the shelter.

We are continuing to support the shelter with supplies and we are seriously looking into opening a shelter of our own. Watch this space for details!!

If you received this by email and hardcopy then please let us know so we can save on postage. If we have your contact details wrong then please let me know (we don't have names for some of you!!). If you are a UK tax payer and have not completed a gift aid form then as always can I ask you to please let us know as it won't cost you anything but we can claim extra money from the taxman on your donation.



Donna

Please do keep the letters of support coming in and especially those donations! A big thank you to all who have organised events or taken part in fund raisers on behalf of Nowzad Dogs – without you we could not help the Afghan strays. Thank you so much to Geoff and Ann who as a tag team, are raising serious amounts of money by standing out in all weathers rattling the collection tins for the dogs of Afghanistan!

We still need those old stamps – the more foreign and obscure the better.

We will be holding a Nowzad Dogs dog walk day later this year (probably in the autumn), sadly we have just not had the time to organise it at the moment.

And not that I want any of our supporters to head off to the pearly gates just yet but thank you those who have been kind enough to include Nowzad Dogs in your will. We can't take it with us so we may as well put it to good use when we are gone!

It is going to be a busy year ahead – we are looking at sourcing land for the Nowzad Dogs shelter in Afghanistan, planning and initiating a stray dog neutering programme and continuing the companion animal rescue programme.

I do hope that you will stay with us for this journey – we love having you onboard!!

'One Dog at a Time' is released as a paperback on the 15th April plus we are really pleased to



announce that the follow up 'No Place like Home' is published as a hardback on the 8th July. We are keen to spread the word of the Nowzad Dogs charity as much as we can. Do you have a venue that would be suitable to host us coming along to deliver the Nowzad Dogs slideshow?

We normally run the talks for free as long as we can collect donations and set up a small stall with Nowzad Dogs goodies for sale. We are not able to pay for the hire of a venue and we would ask that you help to promote the talk. We are definitely happy to come along to schools if there would be sufficient interest. We may be turning up to talk at certain Waterstones bookshops during the summer so please ask your local store if they are holding a talk. We are also happy to partner independent bookstores too.

Your in dogs rescue,

*The Nowzad Dogs team*