

PAWPRINTS



NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY



Messages immortalized in "Paws of Fame" Walk

President's Circle

Nearly the full contingent of Charter Members of the CCHS President's Circle attended a Friday evening reception at the Humane Center, September 16. Held the evening prior to the Grand Opening, the wine and cheese reception was hosted by board members and staff. President of the Board LeRoy Neitzel welcomed the group, thanking them for their support and interest in providing valuable direction for the new era of the Society. The President's Circle will meet once or twice a year, Dr. Neitzel announced. At the reception, the permanent plaque of Charter Members was unveiled.

Although the Charter rolls are now closed, regular memberships in the President's Circle are available on an on-going basis for \$150.00/year. Call Executive Director Karel Kaufman for further information.

Pawprints Facelift

You may be noticing the NEW look of *Pawprints*. The streamlined, easier-to-read appearance can be credited to Eric Schmulbach of The Laser's Edge, a new laser printing service in Champaign. Eric and his wife Alison support the Society's work wholeheartedly, and are themselves proud owners of a CCHS alum. Eric continues his contribution by donating his professional services. We appreciate his generous support and hope you like our 'facelift' and tell Eric so yourself.

Grand Opening Dedication

The new Humane Center was officially dedicated on September 17th during the Humane Society's Grand Opening festivities. Approximately 250 wellwishers were on hand to tour our facility and appreciate first hand the many exceptional features included in the building designed by Gary Olsen of Olsen-Lytle Architects, Champaign.

Thanks to the wonderful response to the Adopt-a-Tree program and Champaign County Development Council, trees and shrubs were added just prior to the grand opening. Along with the prairie grasses already flourishing, the landscape, designed by Stuart Sachs, provides a beautiful setting for the new Center.

Throughout the day, supporters had the opportunity to chat with Humane Society board members and staff. Underlying the comments and compliments was a sense of pride and achievement. On behalf of the board of directors and staff, heartfelt gratitude is due to the local businesses, corporations, and hundreds of individuals who helped turn our dream into reality.

Trick or Treat

Halloween provides a time when young and old alike can allow their imaginations free rein to design colorful and fanciful costumes. Lincoln Square, cosponsors with CCHS, *The News Gazette* and the Downtown Urbana Promotion Committee is providing the place.

Bring family and pets, dressed in appropriate attire for an evening filled with fun. The scheduled events are:

- 5:30-8:00 Trick or treating in the Mall shops
- 6:00-7:00 Registration for costume competition
- 7:00-9:00 Costume judging in six age categories from infant through adult.

In addition there will be special appearances by Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime Dog. Come spend Halloween with us.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY HUMANE CENTER
 1911 East Main Street
 Urbana, Illinois 61801
 (217) 344-PAWS

Hours of Operation

Shelter Hours: Monday-Friday 11:30-600
 Saturday & Sunday 11:30-4:00
 Thursday Closed
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00

Board of Directors

Dr. LeRoy Neitzel President
 Stephen J. Notaro Vice President
 E. Barbara Meyer Secretary
 Ron Eldridge Treasurer
 Dr. Paul Cook Jim Kuehl
 Doug Fink Laurie McCarthy
 Dr. Christine E. Frey Dr. Queenie B. Mills
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Executive Staff

Executive Director
 Karel Kaufman

Shelter Manager
 Kathy Boll

Office Manager
 Diane Young



Campaign for a Humane Center

For Your Information
A Matter of Life and Death

This article begins a new feature to Pawprints, a periodic column devoted explanation of CCHS policies for our readers. The following is based on a detailed article prepared for the Board of Directors by Veterinary Technician Sarah Hurley. It deals with the most sensitive of subjects, one that we know many of you are hesitant to ask about - putting animals to sleep.

Each year CCHS receives over 5000 animals. In the summer, we can receive up to 150 a week. The sad fact is that we are able to return or place only about 2000 pets annually, and it becomes necessary to euthanize the majority of the animals we receive. One of the most frequent questions we hear at the shelter is "How long do you keep an animal?" or "How do you decide which ones to put to sleep?"

To understand the answers to these questions, let's first look at the goals we try to meet in choosing animals to be placed up for adoption. First, we try to keep the greatest number of animals practical. The word "practical" is the key here. We must be reminded that keeping an unlimited number of animals will not necessarily result in more animals adopted, because there are a limited number of good homes available in our community at any given time. We are also aware that housing animals in quite costly. Keeping large numbers of animals that will not be adopted consumes money that would be better spent on programs to prevent animals from being abandoned or given up in the first place. But, because there's no way to know absolutely that an individual animal will not be adopted, we want to give as many animals as we can the opportunity to be seen by potential adopters. Secondly, because we want sheltered animals to be as comfortable as possible, and because healthy animals are more adoptable, preserving the good health of sheltered animals is important. Another goal is to maintain a variety (in terms of age, physical appearance and degree of training) of animal so that adopters may choose a pet that will fit their lifestyle.

Finally, we try to keep those that are most likely to be adopted. Certain types of pets are more popular, in greater demand and more quickly placed.

Unlike some other shelters, CCHS does not specify a maximum amount of time an animal will be kept. We feel that as long as the health and temperament of the pet remain good, and no other animal of greater adoptability requires cage space, the animal should continue to have the opportunity to find a home. At the same time, we cannot guarantee that once an animal is relinquished to us, that it will be put up for adoption at all. We evaluate each animal in terms of its adoptability relative to all other animals in the shelter at the time and can keep only those which seem to be most adoptable. Following are some of

Scarlet's Story

Scarlet died today.

She came to our shelter unwanted and unloved, and when she left, she took a piece of my heart with her.

Scarlet was a small Beagle. She was dainty, gentle and quiet. She loved children and all she wanted was to be loved and petted. A truly sweet dog...absolutely sweet!

Scarlet came into my life one day at the Champaign County Humane Society shelter. A couple who had been hiking in a national forest about 4 hours from the shelter had found her wandering, lost and alone. She was dirty, covered with ticks, had an ear infection, and had recently had puppies. The couple looked for the puppies but could not find them. They brought her to our shelter so that she would have a safe place to stay and receive proper care.

Continued on page 3

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Why a Prairie?



When it was first suggested that the new Humane Center belonged in a prairie setting, the response was an immediate, enthusiastic affirmative. It seemed so right somehow, that an organization devoted to the protection and the welfare of animals would extend its compassion to the little piece of earth it occupies. We are excited about restoring and preserving a bit of this rich and rapidly dwindling environment not only for our own enjoyment, but for the enrichment and education of those who come after us. We look forward to the birds, mammals and insects that will take up residence near us, and we anticipate the seasonal changes and subtle beauty of the prairie as it develops and establishes itself. Do come out and see what's been done so far. EBM

"I was once standing in such a prairie when a meadow vole came trundling along unnoticingly. He or she had a worm in mouth and stopped periodically to take a bite. The meal was finished on the crest of my toe. That creature has been my pet for many years. Perhaps as our prairie grows we too will have a range of prairie creatures. Watch, as we grow."

....David Monk, Educational Resources
in Environmental Science

Dog Training Seminar Report

The Conference Room at the Humane Center had its first use this August, with the joint Champaign-Urbana Dog Training Club/CCHS seminar on "Your Dog and You: How to Peacefully Co-Exist". Linda Case, Dode Froman, Jim Kuehl and Robin Haggard shared their expertise in the areas of nutrition, canine behavior, basic training and those all-to-familiar behavioral problems with conference registrants. Dode's session was especially appreciated, for she used Crete, a shelter resident (since adopted) for her skilled demonstration of basic obedience training tips. Registrants also received a packet of materials on basic training, puppy development, behavior, immunizations and a suggested reading list.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Yes, it's getting to be that time of year again. After the long, hot summer, it's hard to believe that the holidays are nearly upon us, but it's time to cast thoughts toward Santa and good cheer. The CCHS Holiday Bazaar is coming to town November 19th at the Urbana Civic Center. Home-made bake goods and crafts will be offered, the proceeds going entirely to the care of shelter animals. Doors open to the public at 10:00 a.m.

Craftspeople, bakers & volunteers who are interested in supporting the Humane Society through this festive event are urged to call Volunteer Coordinator, Cathryn Yancey at 356-1540 for further details. See you there!

Scarlet's Story (cont. from page 2)

We cleaned her up and put her on medication for her ear infection. She was held for seven days as a stray. In that time we tried to locate her owner by calling agencies in the area where she was found. We couldn't find her owner and the owner didn't contact the shelter. At the end of seven days, she was put up for adoption.

I thought it would be easy to find her a new home. She had all the characteristics that people usually look for in a dog. She was an adult who was gentle, quiet, good with kids, and small (a good size even for a person who lived in a small apartment).

It did not go as planned, however; the days passed by one after the other without many people giving her a second glance. The staff and volunteers tried to take her out and walk her and give her the attention that she so much desired, but that wasn't nearly as much as Scarlet wanted and, over the weeks that she was at the shelter, she became more lonely and withdrawn.

I loved Scarlet very much. Each day she was at the shelter I became more attached to her. This is one of the biggest mistakes that you can make if you work at a shelter. It's easier if you can stay somewhat detached from the animals, or it will take you into the ground each time one gets euthanized. I would have taken her home if I could, but since I've been working at the shelter I have adopted more pets than I really need. It would not be in the best interests of my family, Scarlet or my other pets if I took her home. My mother told me that she was proud of my decision, because she knew how hard the decision was for me to make. It hurts more than one can imagine. There will always be another one that will work its way into my heart and the sorrow will be there for that pet too, if it is going to be euthanized.

The day finally came. No one had to warn me; I knew. The day before we had gotten in a lot of very adoptable animals - all in search of a new home. When this happens, there is not enough room for all of them at the shelter and the ones that have been there the longest and are not doing well are put to sleep to make room for the others and give them a chance to be adopted.

So Scarlet died. Another casualty of a cruel world. She died peacefully, in the arms of someone who cared about her. She never did stand a chance — coming from a home where she was neglected and abandoned by someone who didn't care if she lived or died.

She was a loving, dear dog and I would have liked to see her find a home where she could romp through a grassy field, take a dip in a pond, or lie quietly content by her owner's side.

Along with all the others before her, with her, and after her, she will live forever in my heart. CD



(Editor's note: Chris occasionally submits articles for Pawprints, sharing with us her deepest feelings the work she does. We are grateful that Chris, along with her co-workers at the shelter, risk broken hearts every day to care for the Scarlet's of this world.)

A Matter of Life and Death (cont. from page 2)

the things that we look at in assessing adoptability, which is defined as the relative chance that an individual animal will be chosen to go to a new home.

1. **Health:** Animals with contagious diseases are not placed up for adoption because they endanger other animals. Animals with chronic conditions such as flea allergy or heart murmurs are not put up for adoption because they incur continuing medical expenses for the owner and may have a reduced life span or poor physical appearance as well. Animals with acute non-contagious disease or injury that is costly to treat; for example heartworm or broken limbs, are similarly not very adoptable.
2. **Temperament:** Known biters and aggressive animals are dangerous and are never placed up for adoption. Shy animals are usually overlooked by adopters who are attracted to more active, outgoing animals. Extremely frightened or depressed animals are euthanized rather than kept in a situation which causes them such distress.
3. **Age:** Unweaned animals are euthanized, in part because we do not have the resources to raise them. Animals over 6 years old are seldom put up for adoption due to a strong adopter preference for younger animals.
4. **Physical Traits:** Small dogs are easier to place due to adopter preference and size restrictions imposed by landlords. Purebred animals are more easily placed than mixed breeds. Neutered animals and, to some extent, declawed cats are more adoptable. It is unlikely that we would be able to adopt out more than 3 to 4 animals of the same type (e.g., 8 black lab mix puppies) in the same month, so additional numbers of represented types are sacrificed unless the shelter population is very low.
5. **Training/Behavior Problems:** Dogs which are housebroken are easier to place. Large adult dogs which have not been trained to walk on a leash are difficult to handle and are poor candidates for placement, as are animals with a history of destructiveness or excessive barking. Cats and kittens which are not litter-trained are not put up for adoption.
6. **Economics:** CCHS makes a considerable investment in each adoptable animal in terms of vaccination, worming and other health care. While this investment is necessary for the welfare of the animals and their increased appeal to potential adopters, it also creates a situation in which it is economically unwise to euthanize animals currently up for adoption in order to make room for animals which are not clearly more adoptable.

Assessing adoptability is perhaps the most difficult job we do at the shelter. There are few absolutes. Is a 2 year old purebred Shephard which is not housebroken, leash-

trained or neutered more or less adoptable than a 5 year old, spayed housebroken Shephard mix which has a quiet temperament? A great deal of sleep has been lost over such decisions. When we tell people a animal has been euthanized because it had an allergy or was shy, they are often outraged that we would kill an animal for such a minor condition. Yes, we know that there are people who can see past such "disabilities". In fact, most of the shelter staff have adopted at least one of these animals. The truth is that most people are less willing to inconvenience themselves for the sake of such an animal when there are so many without such problems available.

Given the fact that we must euthanize animals, it makes sense for us to keep only the "best". The final truth is that no matter what reason we choose to give, the real reason 95% of those 3000 animals die each year is there are simply far more pets born than there are good homes available. Until we can convince owners not to allow their pets to breed, and until it becomes less universally acceptable for people to give away or otherwise dispose of their pets when they become inconvenient, we will be forced to make the painful, unpopular decisions that no one should have to make - decisions that are literally a matter of life and death.

CCHS Calendar of Events

Oct. 31	Pet Masquerade at Lincoln Square
Nov. 19	Holiday Bazaar

Sit Up and Beg



- ✓ Gaines "star" markers: We can receive cash for the starred price stickers from Gaines dog food products. Note that this is not the UPC bar code. We also need the dog picture from the front of Cycle cans.
- ✓ A printer for our computer. Our little Okidata is having a bit of trouble chugging out the thousands of computer labels needed for *Pawprints* and our bulk mailings. We could really use another printer with an adjustable tractor-feed carriage. Letter quality & sheet feed ability would be awfully nice too.
- ✓ Books for the Resource Center on any animal related topics. We're collecting children's animal stories too. And right now we could use a book on prairie plants & a field guide for birds.
- ✓ A toy box for the waiting room to keep children occupied while mom and dad fill out forms. And maybe some toys to fill it?
- ✓ Speaking of toys, we can always use dog toys.
- ✓ A couple of aquarium stands for our fish and gerbil tanks.
- ✓ Rubber-backed door mats
- ✓ Garden hoses (at least 60 ft.)
- ✓ Paper bags (for use at the Holiday Bazaar)
- ✓ Lawn edger with handle
- ✓ Tree-wrap to help protect our newly planted trees this winter.
- ✓ Large artificial green Christmas tree

SPECIAL THOUGHTS...SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PAWPRINTS

In memory of Ralph Hudson

Rose Breen
Walter Alspaugh
Kathy Wehrmann
Karen Taylor
Sherri Rush

In memory of our son Ronald J. Campbell

Lois Campbell, U.

In memory of Klyde

Donald & Karen Hansen, C.

In memory of Stinker

Lynn & Nancy Boise, C.

In memory of our beloved Andi

Willis A. Kremin, C.

In memory of Sandy, beloved dog of Gretchen & Keith Bisplinghoff and sons

Mr. & Mrs. James R. Toye, C.

In memory of Tiffany

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Reed, C.

In memory of Grace A. Johnson

Dr. & Mrs. Marcus Hedgcock, C.

In memory of Earl Williams

Rudy & Ginney Abel, C.

In memory of Matthew Perry

Dr. Neitzel & Family, C.

In memory of Lovelei who passed on Aug. 6. She was our loving companion for seven years; a Doberman who didn't believe she was a dog but just another one of the kids

Marijane Willis and Family, C.

In memory of my Beagles Penny & Teddy who gave the whole family so many happy years

Judy Rudicil, C.

In memory and honor of Spike & Precious

Heather Shannon, U.

In memory of William Berryman

Mary Jane Mittendorf, U.

Mr. & Mrs. William Bash, C.

Lorraine Trebelcock, C.

Dorothy Peabody, C.

The Families of 25 Blue Spruce, C.

In honor of Sherry Slade's Birthday

Alberta & Elsie Marshky, C.

In honor of Chomsky who has given me great pleasure since his adoption.

Reiko Hattori, C.

In memory of Flossie, sweet dog of John, Crystal & Brandon Graham

Alberta & Elsie Marshky, C.

In memory of my two darling Himalayan cats Jasmine and Jezebel-I shall miss them always

Mrs. Jerry Dobrowolny, C.

In memory of Charger

Linda Mills, C.

In loving memory of William Wheeler

Myrna Wheeler
Harry & Marguerite Marlatt

Helen Page

Champaign Unit 4 Elementary School

Secretaries Group

Richard & Marilyn Tabor

David & Shirley Peters

Odell & Grace Tedrow

John & Sharon Van Grinsven

John & Karla Swanberg

Pat Amdor, Eric & Jayne Menssen

Michael & Teresa Terwilliger

Heidi, his faithful friend and companion and
Tinkerbelle, Peanut, Sparky, Charlie, Duke, Mike,
Dum Dum, Brownie, Dumb Cat, Rascal & Abbie

E.H. Mellon Building staff & Servicenter staff

The members of the Champaign County

Chapter of Educational Office Personnel

Margie & Larry Jobe

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Wisner

Marge & Don Stillwell

Paul & Jean Sparks

Mr. & Mrs. Grant & Nancy Collins

In memory of Chuck

Patricia Weston, C.

In memory of Jolie & Dulcie

Wanet Mehaffey, U.

In memory of Mr. James Costello

Mr. & Mrs. Wiese, C.

In memory of Ileen & Tom Krall parents who loved all animals

Pauline Brownfield, C.

In honor of Braney, 15 and Sunshine 11, continuing sources of inspiration

Clover & Parker Gowing, Kirkland, WA

In honor of Morris our much loved cat

Edson & Gudrun Krueger, Rantoul

In memory of Carrots, our precious little peek-a-poo who died in the spring

Denzel Baker, C.

In honor of Harriet Barto

Erika DePasquali,

In memory of Ted Schneiderman

Bruce & Karen Kaplan, C.

In honor of all the little animals that have been devoted pets

Hazel Hasty, C.

In memory of Skunk the ultimate black & white macho cat

Betsy Gillies, U

In memory of Isabel Swan

Ruth F. Inskip, C.

In memory of Daniel - we still love & miss you

Cami Cutler, U.

In honor of Elizabeth, our CCHS pound hound, and Old Brownie, our found hound

Donna Inyart, Oreana

In memory of my mother's birthday (Myrtle H. Swan)

Isabel Swan, C.

In memory of Oscar & Jazz

Sharon Thomas, U.

In memory of Guli

Orval Strode, C.

In memory of Raleigh's twin pups

Nancy L. Pryst, U.

In memory of Sweetie

Paula Fultz, Seymour

In memory of Clovis

Caroline Hibbard, U.

In memory of Princess

Laura Cochrane, C.

In memory of John Henry and Flerf, two unforgettable cats

Tom & Barb O'Halloran, U.

In memory of Mildred Stark

Employees of Northern Illinois Water Corp.

In memory of Annette Siuts

Steve & Kathy Dyson, U.

In honor of those much more fortunate: Brandy O'Rourke, Willie Kienle and Rex Laverdiere

Diane & Tom O'Rourke, C.

In memory of Teko - a special friend for over 17 years

Pamela Todd, U.

In honor of Rocky, my cat and my pal

Margaret Buese, U.

In memory of our Mini Schnauzer Heine

The Twohey Family

In memory of Katy & Oatmeal

Rosemary Sikora, C.

In memory of Archie, for 15 years of joy from the Humane Society

Mr. & Mrs. D.L. Pearl, Rantoul

In memory of my husband, Leo M. Rice

Mrs. Anita L. Rice, Onarga

In honor with thanks and gratitude to Dr. Neitzel for caring

The Harold Slade Family, U.

In memory of Priscilla, a cherished family member for 17 years

Albin Matuzewicz, C.

In honor of Fagel Silver and in memory of Pepper Alpert and Boots Silver

Lainie, Judith & Mitchell Silver, Chicago

In honor of Twiggy and Heidi my two best buddies

Betty Alsop, C.

Membership Reminder

Have you renewed your membership yet? Is there a special friend who might be interested in joining? Remember that members are the heart of the Humane Society. Without you, we couldn't exist. Here's a coupon to use or to pass on to a friend. *And thanks!*

I wish to renew my CCHS membership at this time.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$25.00) Contributing (\$30.00) Patron (\$50.00)

Sustaining (\$100.00) Benefactor (\$500.00) Senior (\$5.00) Student (\$5.00)

All checks can be made payable to the CCHS and sent to: 1911 East Main St. • Urbana, IL 61801 • 217/344-PAWS

Volunteers

Report of Volunteer Hours for 1987-1988

Although statistics usually put an audience to sleep, I think I have some which might wake you up. Volunteerism is taking place at the CCHS Humane Center at a fast rate, which makes me want to look back at last year and do some totalling and multiplying of people and hours contributed to the work we've set out to do.

Over the last twelve months, 4,922 hours have been contributed by 154 people. These folks are divided into two categories: one is an on-site Shelter group, working with the animals. The other is designated Outreach, who are called upon to help with bulk mailings, mall displays and fundraisers such as our Garage Sale and Christmas Bazaar.

If those numbers mean little to you, let me translate the hours these volunteers have given into dollars. If paid minimum wage, they would have earned \$16,488.70. You can begin to appreciate their contribution now, can't you? On moving day alone, 94 individuals spent 564 hours collectively. At minimum wage, these folks earned \$1,889.40. And those who climbed the stairs at the old business office surely earned more than their prorated share would indicate.

At the annual membership meeting this year, awards were presented to two volunteers, one from each of the categories, Outreach and Shelter. Our first volunteer recognized was Peggy Heilig who comes to the shelter twice a week—at least, to exercise, groom, and socialize dogs, making them more adoptable. Peggy has a natural, springy stride which makes it a little hard for some of the dogs to keep up, but keep up they do because she is so important to each of them and her visits are so welcome. CCHS is fortunate to have such a dedicated and good-humored volunteer.

Our Outreach volunteer was Mary McCartney, who balances dogs, cats, and birds at her house, along with several children and her husband. Mary participates in Pet-on-Wheels, Urbana Firefighters' Dog Wash, bulk mailings, and anything else she's asked to do. Her willingness to help and her compassion in dealing with animals and people have made her a favorite among the staff and certainly with the folks at the Urbana Nursing Home where she takes two dogs and a cat to visit. CY

Adopt-A-Tree

Our members responded enthusiastically to the appeal in the last issue of *Pawprints* for "tree parents". Almost all of the beautiful native Illinois species listed have been planted or are on order. We'll complete the plantings next spring, and have then more trees & plants for "adoption".

Dog Wash a Success

Dogs of all sizes and shapes trotted in for a bath and flea dip August 13th at the Annual Dog Wash sponsored by the Urbana Firefighters. In all, 90 dogs were made squeaky clean raising \$1000 for the Humane Society. Special thanks are due to Jeff and Sue Welch, coordinators of the event, Carleen Decker and the Parkland Veterinary Technicians for their expert flea dipping and to Bruce Thompson and Pepsi-Cola Champaign-Urbana Bottling Company, the corporate sponsor of promotion for the event.

Thank You

...To Laundry Equipment by Floyd for their generous donation of an electric dryer to replace our old gas dryer

...To the following individuals & businesses who donated items for our Grand Opening:

- > Rick Orr Florist, Olsen-Lytle Architects and Betty Hembrough for their beautiful plant and flower arrangements
- > To The Laser's Edge for typesetting the poster
- > To Dallas & Co. for letting us use a doggy costume to entertain the children
- > To International Galleries for a superb job in framing our Architect's rendition of the new building
- > To Larry Kanfer for adorning our walls with his wonderful pet photographs

... To all the folks who answered our pleas in last month's Sit Up and Beg. Be assured that we saved several hundred dollars by your donations.

A Final Thought . . .

Again, we goofed! The date of the annual Holiday Bazaar was listed wrong in last month's Calendar of Events. The correct date is Saturday, November 19th. Please mark your calendars! For more info on the Bazaar, call 344-7297 (*Office*) or 356-1540 (*Cathryn Yancey*).

Non-Profit Organization

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