# THE SILVER LINING



#### TOP TEN THINGS RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS DO

Volume1 Issue 2 2ndQuarter 2017 of do

We all want to be responsible pet owners but what does the word *responsible* mean when applied to how we care for our beloved pets? No doubt, there are as many definitions as there are breeds of dogs and colors of cats. Here is my personal top 10 list of "essential responsibilities," all of which have been gleaned from three decades of work as a small-animal veterinarian.

1) Believe in "Till Death Do Us Part": When you adopt a pet, you are committing to care for the animal for its entire life. Now, we all know that life has a way of changing unexpectedly. Should your ability to care for your pet change, or if your pet has the potential to live for many decades (such as a parrot or tortoise), your responsibility should be to carefully plan who will be the next care provider for your pet.

2) Know it's "For Better or Worse": Just as in human relationships, commitment to a pet is to provide love and care "for better or for worse." Undoubtedly, there will be struggles - delayed house training, separation anxiety, destroyed furniture, chronic health issues (no doubt, you can add to this list). When opening your home and your heart to an animal, be willing and prepared to invest the time, energy and financial resources necessary to successfully manage any rough spots. Such challenges are a normal part of life. The silver lining is that they help us appreciate and enjoy the smooth times so much more.

**3) Guarantee Food and Shelter:** Perhaps the most obvious responsibility on this list, provision of the basic necessities of life, is an important one. Water and nutritious food are a must, as is protection from the elements. Here is where I will

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present my plug for providing shelter within the home. Given the choice, I firmly believe that the vast majority of dogs and cats would prefer to be housed indoors, living side-byside with their favorite humans. From their perspective, a bed in the garage or a doghouse in the backyard is invariably a second choice.

**4) Provide Emotional Nutrition:** The kitty who persistently meows at an unanswered door and the dog who is chained to a tree in the yard are both in heartbreakingly inhumane situations. The need for emotional nourishment is just as great (if not greater) than the need for what is in the food bowl. Every animal's emotional needs are different, but every animal deserves to have their emotional needs fulfilled. Your responsibility is to recognize and fill such needs (overfilling is perfectly acceptable!).

**5)** Commit to Preventative Health Care: here is a rather long "to do" list when it comes to proactively preserving your pet's health. Protection from harm, balanced nutrition, exercise and regular checkups are a good start to any list. I encourage you to work with your veterinarian to create your own "to do" list for your pets.

6) Practice Responsible Parenting: If I possessed a magic wand, I would personally like to see all the homeless animals in this country placed in loving homes before any more dogs or cats are bred. Without that magic wand in hand, my best bet is to appeal to you to do whatever it takes to prevent your pet from reproducing. If you are not convinced this is an important issue, I encourage you to visit your local animal shelter or Petfinder.com to see for yourself how many pets are currently homeless.

7) Ensure Your Pet's Safe Return: Should the unthinkable happen and your pet becomes lost, the likelihood of a happy ending is greatly enhanced if he or she has been microchipped (and the microchip registry has your current contact information). Another critical safeguard is a collar sporting a current identification tag.

Continued page 10



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Puppy mills are inhumane commercial puppybreeding facilities that value profits over the health or well-being of the dogs used as breeding stock. They sell their "product" to pet stores, online, in classified ads and at dog auctions. Commercial puppy-breeding is a multi-billion dollar industry. And it's an ugly one. People we talk to are always surprised to learn that it exists and that it is legal. But the fact is, dogs are considered "livestock" in the eyes of our federal government (Animal Welfare Act), and are regulated by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The law allows a level of care that most people would not consider humane. Commercial puppy-breeders take advantage of this to maximize their profit at the expense of the welfare of the dogs, inhumanely confined and bred continuously until their feeble bodies give out. They hide the truth from the public by selling their puppies to unsuspecting consumers through pet stores, websites and classified ads, refusing to reveal where or how the puppy was born and raised. Puppy mills are cruel and inhumane: Right now, hundreds of thousands of adult dogs, used as breeding stock, are suffering on the "production lines" in puppy mills. Best estimates place that number around 800,000! They are treated like products, not living beings, and their health and welfare are disregarded to maintain a low overhead and maximize profit. Mills range in size, some have as few as 10 breeding dogs and others have more than a thousand breeding dogs packed into deplorable spaces. The life of a mill dog is one

of intense suffering: It's legal to confine adult breeding dogs to small, wire-bottomed cages, only 6 inches longer than the dog on all sides, often stacked on top of other cages, for life. They live in overcrowded, squalid conditions, neglected, starved and left sick and injured without medical care or from overwhelming pain. Most females are bred as frequently as possible, with no recovery time in between litters, and when they are no longer able to "produce" they are discarded like garbage. Recent studies confirm that dogs confined in

puppy mills for breeding purposes demonstrate impaired health and diminished welfare and carry emotional scars for years. **Puppy mills are legal:** Puppy mills are regulated by the government (USDA). However, standards are not meant to ensure a good life for dogs. They are only meant to impose bare minimum of care requirements, which most would not consider humane. Fewer than 3,000 of the estimated 10,000 mills are registered and licensed by the USDA. Most go unregulated. Missouri is the leading puppy mill state. While the Midwest has the highest concentration, puppy mills operate in many states. Puppy mills are a billion dollar industry: Puppy mills sell their "product" all over the country through retail pet stores, internet sites and classified ads. The estimated number of puppy mill puppies sold annually (both USDAlicensed and non-USDA-licensed) is 2.4 million. Mills focus on quantity, not quality, consequently mill puppies are often sold with an illness, congenital defects and behavioral issues. Pet Stores deceive the public about their "product": Most people don't want to believe it, but that cute puppy in the pet store came from a puppy mill and the mother is still there, suffering endlessly, forced to breed yet another litter. In fact, recent undercover investigations by HSUS revealed that 99% of the puppies for sale originated from mills. They may be USDA licensed breeders, even provide "pure bred" papers, but they are still deplorable mills.

*Source: nationalpuppymillproject.org* 



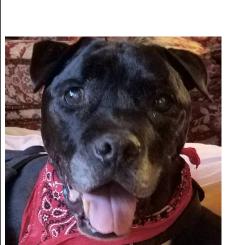
Photo Taken: Mon. Jun 13, '11 1400 hr-1647h Inspection: 164111841240448 Description Excessive amount of feces and other waste under wire enclo

> To Do Nothing To Say Nothing Stops Nothing

## The Original B.A.A.C. Woofstock 2017

What a night it was! Our first Woofstock at the Outer Space in Hamden and it was amazing! The Outer Space was a great setting with craft beer, bar, great food, and an outdoor patio! The bands that volunteered their time were amazing Soldiers of Solace, Hair of the Dog featuring members of Naja, Murray the Wheel, Savile Row, and Social Convention. They completely rocked the event! And of course our favorite guys - Mike Karolyi and Stephen Wayne from iRock Radio were the MC's for the night! We could not have been more thankful to everyone who volunteered their time, worked their butts off and made this event one of the most successful Woofstocks **thus** far! We hope to see and hear all of you at Woofstock 2017!





**In Memoriam** 

**Diesel Acquarulo** 



Becca Terribile-Nielson





Fiona Miko



Kane Paulette



**Memphis Slater** 



Zena Conroy

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Daisy DeNino



Talia (recent case)

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#### **Quarterly Recognitions**



#### Member of the Quarter!

Congratulations Mariette you have been chosen as Member of the Quarter! For those of you who don't know, Mariette has been long time volunteer and just became a full fledge member along with her amazing Fiancé! In addition to B.A.A.C. she helps with many other amazing organizations including CT Pitbull Project and Desmond's Army. She is a constant strong voice and presence at various Connecticut courts during animal cruelty hearings. She tirelessly speaks for the voiceless whenever possible. We are thankful she is part of the B.A.A.C. Family! Congratulations and we look forward to many more years!

#### **Bike of the Quarter!**

Congratulations Lou your bike is Bike of the Quarter! When asked about his bike Lou said "It's a 2006 Honda Shadow Spirit 1100. My dad bought it new and put 16k miles on it in 3 years, then his cancer came back in 09 and he passed away in August. It took me a few years to get on it, but I started riding it in 2012. Painted it, changed the handlebars, put on new blinkers and relocated the rear ones, put on a Mustang seat, and switched out all the pegs and grips. In 2016 I crashed itinto a BMW that pulled out with no blinker, fixed it myself, replaced the crash bar, and fixed the handlears and grips, but left the dent in the tank as a reminder. Put on road burner exhaust and Aris twin headlights this year. It has 40k miles on it now." It's a beautiful bike Lou and we can see why your dad, and now you love it so much!

#### In Memoríam

"If it should be that I grow weak and pain should keep me from my sleep; then you must do what must be done, for this last battle can't be won. You will be sad, I understand; but don't let grief then stay your hand. For this day more than all the rest, your love for me must stand the test. We've had so many happy years; what is to come can hold no fears. You don't want me to suffer so, the time has come please let me go. Take me where my needs they'll tend, but please stay with me till the end. To hold me close and speak to me, until my eyes no longer see."

> ~ Final Journey, LLC -an in-home pet euthanasia service



Congratulations to our members Adam and Danielle! We wish them all the best in their future together and look forward to celebrating more with them! Love, Laughter, and Happily Ever After!

# Vicktory Dog

Ten years ago, 51 pit bulls were saved from the blackened sheds and bloody fighting pits of a wooded Virginia compound belonging to Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick. Life for the dogs in Vick's Bad Newz Kennels was sadistic" They were electrocuted, beaten, kicked, hanged, drowned, overbred and forced to fight. Vick, who was required to pay more than \$900,000 to help the surviving dogs, served 21 months in federal prison for running the fighting ring. Prior to Vick's case, fighting dogs taken into custody were routinely euthanized as damaged goods. But the horror perpetrated by an NFL player generated such intense public sympathy, these animals were given a chance to live. "For the first time, the public started asking, 'What about the dogs?'" said law professor Rebecca Huss, who served as special master on the case and oversaw the dogs' fates. Three did not survive, but the 48 remaining pit bulls were taken in by rescue groups or adopted into people's homes and have thrived beyond all expectation. Some have become therapy and service animals, others social-media and television starts. Almost all of them promote animal adoption on their social networks. More importantly, their collective story has led to tougher federal penalties against dog fighting and new laws that require fighting dogs to be evaluated for adoption before being put down. Now, Sports Illustrated writer Jim Gorant, whose definitive 2011 tome "The Lost Dogs" told the tales of the 48 survivors, has updated their stores in a new e-book "The Found Dogs" The Fates and Fortunes of Michael Vick's Pit Bulls, 10 Years After Their Heroic Rescue." The case "was a tidal shift" in the animal rescue and law-enforcement communities, said Francis Battista of Best Friends Animal Society in Utah, which took in 22 of the Vicktory Dogs, as they came to be known. Even the Humane Society, which once advocated euthanasia for all fighting dogs, now operates a Dog Fighting Rescue Coalition that has placed hundreds of former captives in good homes. Though about 24 of the Vicktory Dogs have since died, all of them made an indelible mark on the world. Pit bulls have shown that "you can't judge them on breed, or background, or where they came from or how they were raised. You have to look at each dog individually," Gorant said.

When he was first rescued Jonny Justice didn't know how to walk on a leash and was terrified of staircases, writes author Jim Gorant. Now the approxately 11 year old dog is start service pup, attending reading events with kids at public libraries around San Francisco, where he lives with owner Chris Cohen. In 2012, toy company Gund made a plush version of him and in 2014, Jonny Justice was named the ASPCA Dog of the Year. How's that for justice?





Ginger used to hide in her crate, but she's now a social-media start with more than 20,500 Facebook fans. Her page documents her dreamy, beach bum lifestyle in California with owner Stacy Dubuc, the SPCA manager in Monterey. The sandy-brown dog, now 12 regularly hands out with Dubuc at her office, where she makes a point of snagging treats from the friendly faces, writes Gorant.

"He was amazing," said Minnesotan Roo Yori, who adopted Hector and fostered him for seven years. Hector made frequent television appearances before his 2013 death and became an ambassador for dog-fighting victims everywhere. "We'd walk down to the set of "The Early Show' and he was like 'What's up?' "Yori said. "I think the biggest thing is just that people realize he was a good dog' he was just in a bad spot."



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#### Vicktory Dogs cont'd



Cherry Garcia was so scared after being rescued, he "slept with one eye open," writes Gorant. But after years of training and a lot of treats, Cherry is now a "star," owner Paul Fiaccone said. Cherry, who appeared in the 2015 documentary "The Champions" about the fate of the Vicktory Dogs, promoted the movie nationwide, too. "We went to six or seven screenings across the country, and he walked in like he owned the place," Fiaccone laughed. Cherry, 11, still lives in Massachusetts with Fiaccone and has taught his owner to make the most of life. "He doesn't have a rearview mirror. He just moves forward," Fiaccone said.

Little Red arrived at Susan Weidel's Wyoming home in 2011 with her own wardrobe because the folks at Best Friends Animal Society loved to dress her up. But it took time for the traumatized pup, once a bate dog, to find her groove. "Everything frightened her: the sound of the dishwasher, Christmas lights, doorways," Weidel said. Over time, and with the help of Weidel's other dogs, Little Red "blossomed. She was like a flower opening." Little Red's death in April at age 14 left Weidel bereft - but also amazed. The owner got hundreds of condolence notes on Facebook, where Little Red still has more than 16,000 fans.





After his adoption, Mel found work, so to speak, as a radio co-host: he goes every day to owner Richard Hunter's studio. The Las Vegas radio personality, who covers mixed martial arts, lets Mel, who doesn't bark, rule the roost. "Mel's favorite thing in the world is to ride in the car," his owner said. "He dances and jumps up and down when I say 'Car ride." But Mel still struggles meeting strangers, crawling into a corner and shaking until he calms down, said Hunter, who once attempted to confront Vick about the case in Dallas. Knowing how long Mel's recovery has taken makes Hunter bristle when folks try to cut Vick some slack. "It's the crime victim who should decide when it's time to move on, not the perpetrator," he said.

The spotlight is too much for Shadow and that's fine for his owner, Susan. The terrified dog was so withdrawn it took him years to get comfortable in her home in the Southwest. Now, he runs around with Susan's other dog, Molly, in the yard and lives quietly. "We just wanted him to be a dog," she said. "People say, 'Boy, is he lucky,' and the truth of the matter is, no, we're the ones who are lucky. He's such a gentle soul ."





It took a little longer for Oscar to find his forever home, but by 2012, he'd landed with owner Rachel Johnson in Nevada. "He preferred a quiet life. He wasn't the dog you took to the movie premiere," she said. Scarred by his years at Bad Newz Kennels, Oscar was always hesitant around strangers, but loved other dogs and spent four years tearing up stuffed toys before he died in January at age 14. "He didn't need to rehabilitate. He needed to recover," Johnson said.

Source: http://nypost.com/2017/07/08/how-michael-vicks-pit-bulls-changed-animal-rescue-forever/

#### **Dog Parks - Opinion Article**



I don't recommend dog parks. Not ever. The list of things that can go wrong is so long that it completely outweighs the possible attributes; note I say "possible," because the positives are, in my opinion, only theoretical. First, dog parks are rife with disease, especially giardia. Soft stool, diarrhea that comes and goes, horrible gas? Have your vet run a test for giardia. And then, of course, there's kennel cough, as well other fungi, viruses, fleas and worms. Second, I have seen way, way too many dog bites that have occurred at dog parks for my personal comfort. Mostly to other dogs, but also to people who reach in to break up a dog fight or a to grab their dog out of harm's way. Even though signage clearly says "Enter at your own risk" and admonishes entrants that the liability they're undertaking is their own, lawsuits more than often ensue. They're never simple, they're always stressful and it may threaten your homeowner's insurance coverage in the future. But let's look at it from a dog's point of view. Dogs thrive on stable relationships. Notice I did not say "pack!" They set up and like to maintain relationships with things that they know: their people, our human friends, their dog friends, their housemates, etc. Unless there are the exact same dogs every time they go to the dog park (which is nearly impossible), they have to re-establish their relationships with not only the dogs they already know in context of the new dog present, but they also have to establish a relationship with that specific new dog. Some dogs can handle the stress of this--but most cannot. Thus you'll get what appears to be random fighting, random aggression towards a dog they know, random odd behaviors ("gee, never done that before"), seemingly sudden guarding behaviors (territory, owner, another dog) etc. It's not random or unpredictable--it's the stress you, as an owner, causes by going to the dog park! Dog parks require skills that most dogs do not possess, nor would they according to how we have bred them for hundreds of years. Lastly, I'm very wary of the "unknown" factors. Unknown dogs, unknown owners, unknown relationships and interactions, unknown damages. I don't like surprises, and dog parks hold way too many unknown factors for dogs' safety. One of my main reasons for not being a dog park advocate is what I can't control my dog's experience and/or other people's dogs (and I think it goes without saying, the dog owners). Because dogs are learning all the time, I must control as much of their experiences as possible, so that they build a solid foundation of behaviors that are appropriate and desirable, such as impulse control, bite inhabitation, and exchanging rewarding, affiliative, positive social interactions. All mammals remember frightening encounters over noneventful or even fun encounters. It's a primal survival brain mechanism, designed to keep us alive. Dozens of positive encounters can be overridden by one bad one; thus I must make sure my dog has only positive experiences for several years, until they are mature and have a solid foundation before I expose them to a possibly unsure environment. If your dog gets bullied, attacked, frightened or even just overwhelmed at the dog park, he will bring that experience and the subsequent conclusions he made with him everywhere. The reactions can vary from "I'm scared and must get away as quickly as possible at all costs" to "If I come on strong and attack first, maybe I'll be okay," to just about anything in between. Also keep in mind that fighting and bullying in dogs is a learned behavior just as much as anything else, and therefore once your dog does it a few times, it's now learned and bound to be repeated over and over again. And make no mistake--many dogs enjoy being a jerk! Your best bet is to not let it start in the first place, whether it's your dog being the bully or being the target. Of course I recommend dog-to-dog play! If your dog has a few friends that he or she really enjoys, please go for it! Set up play dates, meet somewhere where they can safely run, sprint, wrassle, and jump about. Since dogs generally play in pairs, try for either just the two, or in even numbers, you'll find it works out better. Some dogs only want or need a few friends (just like people), and some are social butterflies, and can make friends wherever they go. Pay attention to who your dog is, not who you want them to be. Stay within your dog's comfort zone, and you'll have a happier, safer dog. So considering all the above, is this something you actually want for your dog? I doubt it! Take your dog for a walk instead.

Written by: Jill Kessler Miller 10/18/15

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# **Second Quarter Cases**

It is B.A.A.C.'s policy to provide donations directly to the treating medical facility caring for the victim.

- 'Spring' Case of neglect Donation to help Wolcott, CT Animal Control
- 'Boomer' Case of neglect Georgia Donation to help Halfway Home
- 'Ivan' Case of neglect Georgia Donation to help Halfway Home
- 'Talia' Case of neglect Georgia Donation to help Halfway Home
- 'Chuck' Case of neglect Georgia Donation to help Halfway Home
- · 'Leo' Case of neglect CT Shoreline Donation to help Project Precious
- 'Penny' Case of cruelty Hartford, CT Donation to help Kenway's Causes
- Walter Case of cruelty Hartford, CT Donation to help Kenway's Causes
- 'Trooper' Surrender Shelton, CT Donation to help Furry Friends of CT
- 'Wyatt' Case of neglect Hartford, CT Donation to help Furry Friends of CT
- 'Latte' & Siblings 5 puppies Surrendered Donation to help Mercer Animal Rescue & Sanctuary



Total case donations \$7,500.00 Speuter Program donations \$800.00



Boomer



Spring

Latte (1 of 3 pups)



Talia

Leo

We encourage you to visit the webpages below to learn more about the life saving work these organizations accomplish everyday! And learn what you can do to lend a hand for the thousands of other pets that they rescue, treat and rehab. Help is always needed and appreciated.

www.kenwayscause.com www.furryfriendsct.org www.pprct.org www.merceranimalrescue.org/ www.wolcottpd.org/departments/animal-control-pet-adoptions/

#### **Thank you!**



#### **SECOND QUARTER DONORS**

Alison Tancredi America's Charities Barbara Drake Barbara Drake Barbara Drake Bob Slattery Carol & William Augur Christine Festa Donna Petrillo Grand Chapter of CT OES Inc

In Memory of Brian Leary : Betty Leary & Roger McDonell Elmer & Sandra Daley Jim & Alice Judith Lawson Law Offices of Thompson Gould Page LLC Patricia & Vincent Kalinauskas Patricia Ann Festa Patricia Mercuriano Petrillo's Used Auto Parts, Inc

Harriet Pelkey

Renee Gauthier Richard Knecht Rise & Shine Donation Jar Steven & Mary Ann Verinis Tony King Travelers - CyberGrants TRUist YourCause Corporate Employee Giving Programs YourCause LLC - Dell Giving YourCause LLC - Dell Giving YourCause LLC Corporate Employee Giving Fund

#### Continued from pg. 1

# TOP TEN THINGS RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS DO

8) Create a Model Citizen: Behavioral issues are the number-one reason dogs and cats are relinquished to shelters and other humane organizations. Rehoming such animals is a huge challenge, and the unfortunate end result is often euthanasia. Do the work early on to create a model citizen by participating in training classes or one-on-one work with a trainer. You and your pet will both benefit.

**9)** Advocate For Your Pet's Health: Whether selecting a vaccination protocol or making a life-ordeath decision, your active involvement as a medical advocate for your pet is imperative. You may not have realized it, but at the time of adoption, you accepted "power of attorney" to make medical decisions on your pet's behalf.

Yes, your veterinarian's recommendations are important, and he or she is an important member of your pet's health care team, but you are "team captain" because *no one* knows your pet as well as you do.

10) **Plan for End-of-Life Care:** Unfortunately, sick or aged animals rarely simply pass away peacefully and comfortably in their sleep. In most cases, it is incumbent upon their human family members to decide upon and create an end of life for the pet (whether via euthanasia or hospice care) that is managed humanely.

If you share your life with pets, you will undoubtedly find yourself faced with this all-important responsibility, and it is up to you to make sure your animal is as comfortable, free of pain, and well-loved as possible.

This is my top 10 list of essential pet care responsibilities. Dr. Nancy Kay

Source: www.vetstreet.com

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## Contacts

## **CONTACT US:**

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Kimberly Falango, Secretary	email: Kimberly.falango@gmail.com

#### **Reporting Cruelty:**

Humane Society of the U.S. (Dog Fighting)	1-877-TIP-HSUS
Reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and com	viction of a dogfighter

Humane Society of the U.S (Puppy Mill).....1-877-645-5847

We Tip Hotline ......1-800-78-CRIME

For immediate help dial 911 and as always, your local law enforcement, Animal Control Officer or Humane Society.

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED:**

We are always in need of donations: cleaning products, pet food, pet toys, blankets, towels, litter, beds, pet toys, and anything else that can improve the lives of pets! Bring your donations to any of our events, or reach out to one of the officers listed above!

#### **HELP WANTED:**

If you are interested in becoming a member, visit our website for an application, meet us at an event or reach out to one of the officers listed above!

# Hoodies, Tanks, Tees & more on our website!

Pick up merchandise at any event or online shipping is available!





Toddler through 5x sizes available in most styles!



# **THEY NEED YOUR HELP**

Yes, I would like to help Bikers Against Animal Cruelty, Inc. by donating to help change a life! Please complete this form and enclose it with your payment, checks payable to B.A.A.C.

~ No cash please ~

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#### **B.A.A.C. is green!**

#### Become a member!

()	Mail to: Bikers Against Animal Cruelty, Inc., P.O. Box 68, North Haven, CT 06473	
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Y	help animals in need. Thank you!	
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