



# PAW Shakes

The Newsletter of the Partnership for Animal Welfare ■ Spring 2021  
PO Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768 ■ [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org)

## Cats & dogs: patience, baby gates—and treats!

By Joanne Goldman

I've had cats since I was 10 years old. I had always wanted a dog but could never have one because we lived in an apartment, and I felt it was important for a dog to have a backyard to run in. In 1998, after two of our cats had passed away and we only had one, my family decided it was finally time to adopt a dog. And at this time, we lived in a single-family home with a great fenced yard.

In our search for a dog, the first question we would always ask was "Is the dog cat friendly?" We were not looking for a specific type of dog. We simply wanted a dog who would like our cat. After searching, my family found a PAW dog named Star, whom we fell in love with. She was a one-and-a-half-year-old collie mix. She was the sweetest dog we had ever met. The only "problem" was that we did not know if she was cat friendly. All we knew was that she was given up by her previous family. We were lucky to be approved for adoption by PAW and we brought Star home.

After doing some research, we decided that the baby gate approach was the one to go with. We set up a gate at the top of the stairs so that our cat, Skittles, would feel secure, while giving her and Star the chance to meet safely. It worked! In addition to using the gate, we always rewarded Star with a small treat when she and Skittles met



*Molly G and Alex Cross*

up. We probably left the gate up longer than we had to, but we wanted to be sure that everything would be okay. Once we took the gate down, Skittles and Star lived in peace—together.

Once we gained our confidence, we decided to adopt another cat. Of course, we then had the dual challenge of introducing Skittles to a new cat *and* to Star. Again we used a baby gate but Lucky, our new cat, wanted nothing to do with it. She was fearless! Star welcomed her with open arms. Unfortunately, Star did not care for other dogs. So, after we had Lucky for a while, we decided to adopt another cat. Along came Clancy.

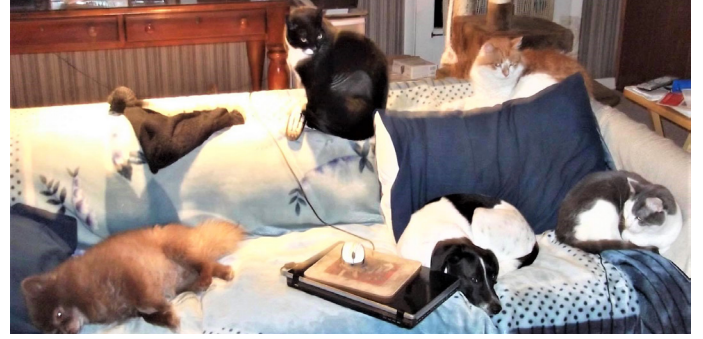
The baby gate went up again, and this time, it came down quite quickly. Clancy was a bit apprehensive, but Star's gentle demeanor gave him confidence and they soon became best friends. Next in line for adoption was



*Lucky and Forrest Gump*

Angel the cat. Once again, the baby gate went up, and as quickly as it went up, it came down.

After adopting Angel, we fostered many cats and kittens. Each, of course, had a unique personality. We were confident of Star's cat friendliness at this point. So, depending on the cat or kitten, we would weigh the need for a bar-



**Above—Anarchy! Clockwise, from lower left: Bentley, Alex, Clancy, Angel, Forrest**

**Left—Goldman Bistro, clockwise from left: Forrest, Steffi, Lucky, Clancy, Molly, Alex, Angel**

rier. With some cats we did and with others we did not. Of course, along with the gates, we needed lots and lots of patience for both cats and dogs. Alex Cross was our last foster. Alex was a feral kitten and was afraid of his own shadow. The baby gates went up and they stayed up a little while longer, until Alex gained his confidence—not only to interact with Star, but to interact with the other cats. Because Alex was so shy, it was difficult to introduce him to prospective adopters. We decided to adopt him ourselves.

Many years went by, and Star passed away. It was much too quiet in the house without a dog. Over the next years, we adopted four more dogs: Bentley, Forrest Gump, Steffi, and Molly. We did know that three of them were cat friendly, so introductions were much easier. But, just to be on the safe side, we used baby gates to ensure the confidence of all. And of course, there were always lots of treats for good behavior.

One of the four dogs, Bentley, a little Pomeranian, was a little feisty with the

cats. To this day, he is not always on his best behavior with them. However, he is easily distracted and always rewarded for good behavior with treats. If you have never had a dog before but would love to adopt one and you do have cats, the easiest route to take, of course, is to get a cat friendly dog. Still, my advice is to take a chance, even if you don't know how things will go. Just remember that you need lots of patience and an abundance of treats. A few baby gates will help too!

## Questions for Rosie

*By Bob Klein*

Sometimes dogs that paw pulls from shelters or rescues from the streets are animals whose spirits or bodies have been injured, and we have no history telling us how it happened. In some cases, we can soothe the dog ourselves with love, patience, and stability. In other cases, we consult a board-certified behaviorist to help us lessen the dog's fear by altering the surroundings, learning how

best to interact with the dog, redirecting undesired behaviors toward desired ones, and providing pharmaceutical assistance. PAW always provides full disclosure when an animal needs a "special" person. There are angels out there who have a passion for working with fearful animals and making them feel safe. Our long-term volunteer Bob Klein is one of them.

**R**osie, you are being adopted! You have a big basket of toys that you rush to play with. Good luck, Rosie. Enjoy your new life.

Oh Rosie, what have you done? You lost your new home in just one day because they say that you did terrible things—they were afraid of you, Rosie. How can that be?

Poor girl, Rosie, you are stuck at the kennel. You cannot be adopted until we understand what happened, what you did. What did you do, Rosie? You need a foster home.

Okay Rosie, we will foster you. No one else came forward, or they did but you scared them away before you even made it to their home. Rosie, I'll foster you and get you ready to be adopted so that you'll have a happy forever life.



Oh Rosie, were those things they said about you true? You are a great dog and I see no reason why you cannot be adopted and enjoy a life of play and happy leisure. I carefully sifted through many applications—you were very popular—and we found a good fit. You seemed to like the folks and now we think you are permanently situated.

Oh Rosie, what have you done? Again. You are back with us? The indictments against you include growling, snarling, baring your teeth, and lunging—luckily, you never completed the apparent attempt at biting your new family. Or is it all a show? Lots of bluster, but you don't want to hurt anyone. Could that be it, Rosie?

Oh Rosie, what are we to do with you? You are such a nice dog with us, but when you are adopted by new people you do terrible things. Why do you do that, Rosie?

Oh no, Rosie, the whole world has shifted. Now you choose to demonstrate your fierceness to us, do you? Out of the blue comes a guttural snarl and the white canines flashing in warning. Warning for what? How were you provoked? You went away and hid. Is that shame at your actions or fear of reprisal? Rosie, we won't hurt you.

Rosie, I cannot figure you out. I think that you are afraid of something, but I cannot say what. Am I on the right track, Rosie? I am familiar with your kind of dog—I can usually tell what sets them off, but you are a mystery that never ceases to puzzle me. I watch you looking at me—do I puzzle you too, Rosie?

Do you think a little medical expertise will help you, Rosie? The doctor says to take this pill once a day and chill out. It seems to be working. We have been together for several months and you have been on your best behav-



**Rosie and Bob**

ior. I think we are coming around together, Rosie.

Rosie, you have been such a good girl, what would you think of being adopted again? I think you might be ready for a forever home without us. Is that a good idea, Rosie?



**Rosie waits for her special person**

Are you worried about being abandoned? You don't have to worry, Rosie, I will be with you until we find the perfect forever home for you. That's what I do. Rosie, you and I are together because, well, that's what I do.



## Membership/Donation Form for Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.

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**Please make checks payable to the Partnership for Animal Welfare and mail to the address on this form. The animals thank you.**

The Partnership for Animal Welfare is an officially recognized non-profit organization which is funded through donations and adoption fees. Donations are tax-deductible (Tax ID # 52-1979581). If you would like to help, you can do so by donating money, earmarking your charitable donations to PAW, helping with some of our fundraising activities, or donating food, blankets and other supplies.

To access a detailed form or donate online, go to <https://paw-rescue.org/donations/>

# Happy Endings



One of our favorite parts of being a PAW volunteer is helping the animals find their forever homes. We love hearing happy stories from adopters and wanted to share some here.

## Barney, the family celebrity

By Diane Kolos

**W**hen this little fellow danced his way into my life, he had been through four homes in two years including two stays with his PAW foster



**Barney rests from his morning walk**

parents. He was part Jack Russell and had all the resultant energy, but he was also a wonderful, affectionate pup who snuggled up on a lap every chance he got. As the first dog I'd adopted, we both had quite a learning curve, but Barney made it easy. His eagerness to please and sweet nature always made any challenges manageable. He's a smart little guy, so we were able to develop a routine in no time at all.

Barney's high energy level makes activity a must, which is a good thing for both of us. What began as short morning walks have gotten longer with time; the word "walk" always makes him begin his happy dance. Soon an

afternoon walk became part of our routine as well because it made him so joyful—he is always delighted to go. I call him my 11-year-old puppy because he is always ready to play tug of war, go for a stroll, or (his personal favorite) take a ride in the car. Whenever I'm working in the yard, he is out there "guarding the fence line" against possible intruders by tracking U.S. Post Office, UPS, and FedEx trucks as they go by.

In the past, it was difficult for me to understand the strong bond between a dog and a human. After a few months with Barney, he had become a permanent part of my life and my family. Now, two-plus years later, I can't imagine my life without him.

He has become a beloved part of my large extended family, and pre-COVID 19, he entertained the smaller children who came to visit with his cute tricks and sloppy kisses. Our big family gatherings were a bit overwhelming for him at first, but then he got used to the big influx of people. Barney can't wait for life to return to normal because he revels in the attention he gets from everyone who visits. He's the star of the show at every family gathering, and I've gotten used to family members asking about him before they ask about me.

Two years ago, adopting a dog seemed to be a huge commitment. Now I realize Barney has changed my life for the better in so many ways, and I wonder why I was worried about bringing him home. The bumper sticker that reads *Who Rescued Who?* is so true!

## Cash learns to trust

By Jennifer Driscoll

**I** have officially adopted three dogs from PAW in the last seven years: Beau, Koda, and Nick (his name is now Cash, as our son's name is Nick). Two were senior dogs. We lost one a few years ago, and the other is still with us and going strong. They were and have been wonderful animals. We adopted our third more than two years ago. His first few years in this world were not kind. He was left outside with four other dogs, most likely to fend for himself.

Cash was with his foster family to get him through heartworm treatment, and they were the ones who initially saved him by making the previous owner surrender all his dogs, including Cash, to the local sheriff. The foster family already had their hands full with



**Cash smiles, Koda snoozes**





**Cash happy and safe**

a house full of dogs, so after Cash's treatment was over, PAW took him to one of the kennels that graciously boards PAW dogs until they can find their forever homes.

He did not do well at the kennel, and I believe it was during the first night that he was able to get over a six-foot fence and escape. He was so freaked out, but thankfully he was found and taken to College Park Animal Hospital where he was housed until PAW could find another foster. I heard his story at one of the adoption shows and agreed to foster him. My husband jokes that I do not understand the definition of fostering because all three of our dogs started out as fosters.

The first few months were a challenge. Cash feared teenaged boys (of which we have one), and if you were wearing a baseball cap, look out! He barked at everything: bikers, trucks, other dogs—you name it. As he was previously kept outside all the time, he was not interested in being outside. The first month we had to pick him up and take him outside to potty. I think he was scared we would not let him back in. It was quite the entertainment for our neighbors to watch me carry our dog outside each day to potty.

When you adopt a rescue dog, you should know you will probably not get

your storybook dog, but do know that you will get something so much *better*. Cash is the most loving dog, and he thinks the sun rises and sets on our family. Our other dog, Koda, merely tolerates Cash. He likes his alone time, but Cash never wants to be alone. My husband chuckles and says that Cash has an unhealthy love for me, and I feel the same way about him.

Rescue dogs take time, patience, and love. They need to learn to trust again, but it's worth every hour and month that goes by until then. My life would not be as full if I never got to be part of my three rescue dogs' lives.

## The little Molly that could

*By Jessica Gebhart*

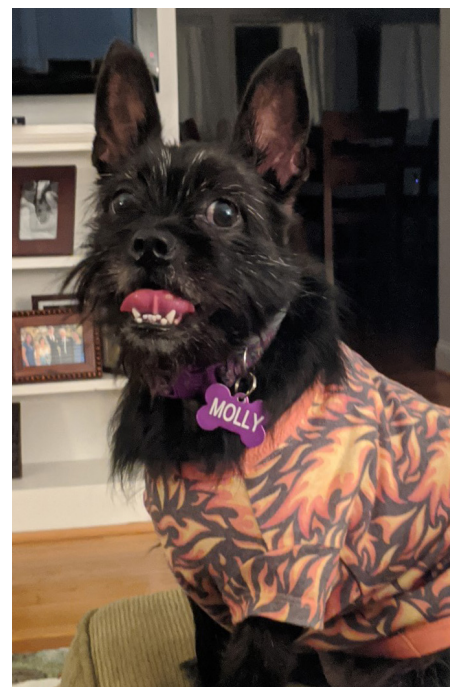
Last year will go down in history as a year that wasn't the greatest, but our fondest memory from 2020 is adopting Molly, our little Boston Yorkie, from PAW. After relocating to Silver Spring from Austin, Texas, we decided we would like to adopt a dog so our miniature schnauzer, Jack, would have a fur friend.

We came across Molly's bio online and could not stop looking at her sweet face, pointy ears, and underbite in the photo. I contacted her foster and made arrangements to meet Molly at an adoption event that weekend. Upon meeting Molly, I immediately fell in love with her outgoing personality and constantly wagging tail. Our schnauzer Jack doesn't have a tail, so this was new territory for me. We arranged for Molly to visit us the following weekend so she could meet Jack and my husband. When my husband smiled while the two dogs played together, I knew Molly would be joining our pack.

We adopted her the same weekend that quarantine began, so in Molly's

mind, the only job we have is to play with her and pet her whenever she wants—we work from home. We are grateful for having this extra time at home with Molly so she can be happy and comfortable in her surroundings.

Our journey has had a few bumps along the way. Molly was born with a genetic condition that makes her skin very loose and easily torn. She has acquired quite an extensive shirt



**Molly gives us her best smile**

collection because we've found this to be a good way to keep her skin safe from things that could hurt her. She also suffered from a torn ligament in her back leg, but after surgery and six months of rehabilitation, she has regained full use of her leg and is doing great.

We deeply admire Molly's resilience throughout the hardships she has faced. Her outgoing personality, adorable underbite, and constantly wagging tail have added a tremendous amount of joy to our lives. Molly brightens our world, and we are thankful she found us.



## What's a "foster fail"?

Do you know the term "foster fail"? This expression is meant to be humorous. It refers to a foster who becomes smitten with a dog or cat and vice-versa. They will not be separated, so the dog or cat is adopted! Below are a few of the many love matches made through PAW.



*PAW foster fails, their "kids," original PAW names if applicable, and the year adopted—left to right by row, from top: Bethany DiPaula and Jax (Jack) 2011, Bill Isbell and Sadie (Biscuit) 2017, Greg Pike and Mickey 2017, Martha Oppenheim and Harry (Abe) 2017, Bob Klein and Tiny Tim 2012, Dave Campbell and Shelby 2017, Hillary Stains con Queso (Lady) 2019, Karen Walsh and Daisy 2018, Jenn Wertz and Horatio 2017, Kyle Eisenhart and Bam Bam 2015, Julie Marks and Frosty 2016, Kate Puchek and Avon Barksdale 2019, Twyla Henderson and Dakota 2013, Rochelle Bartolomei and Cleo 2020, Natalie Cummings and Cubby Bear 2020, Mark Jaffe and Honey 2019*



## Donations in Honor of and in Memory of. . .

### In honor of people:

In honor of Drs. Montgomery & Moon, by Lisa & Peter Wells  
 In honor of Al Dyson, by Ken & Cathy Dyson  
 In honor of Asa Doherty for fostering cats, by Rochelle Altman  
 In honor of Asa Doherty, by Madelyn Altman  
 In honor of Ashley Blandford, by Julie Blandford  
 In honor of Diana Hodge, by Don & Adrienne Dripps  
 In honor of Dr. Barbara Henderson, by Nancey E. Parker  
 In honor of Eva Doherty's birthday, by Pamela Street  
 In honor of Jennifer Mineart, by Alvin Mineart  
 In honor of Michael Hickey & Robin Vinopal, by Linda Cronin  
 In honor of Mike Backenheimer & Twyla Henderson, by Vicki Scott  
 In honor of Mrs. Louise Pike Short, Mr. William H. Pike, & Mrs. Mary Maier, by Albert Pike  
 In honor of Natalie Cummings for her contributions to Woofie's Legacy, by Michael Weiss  
 In honor of Reilly Park, by Gregg Park  
 In honor of Richard Browder, by Peggy Bowditch  
 In honor of Twyla Henderson, by Michael Backenheimer

### In memory of people:

In memory of Barbara Benson, by Liana Corrinne  
 In memory of Debbie Breuer, by Sue Miller  
 In memory of Frances Emmons, by Pat Maslin  
 In memory of Janet Eldridge Wesner, by Carolyn Jackson

In memory of John J. Baker, by Martha Maruca, Faye Stark, Linda Hottenstein, Shirley Baker, and Deb Taber  
 In memory of my husband, James S. Young III, by Christina Young  
 In memory of Suzanne Mattingly, by Gloria Cottman, Dennis & Cindy Cunningham, and Janice Bures

### In honor/memory of people and pets:

In honor of the tireless PAW volunteers & their furry friends, by Ginnie Maurer  
 In memory of Ruth Cottman and our PAW dogs, Lady & Missy, by Harry Cottman

### In honor of pets:

In honor of Annabelle, by Lawrence & Beth Pratt  
 In honor of Annie, my PAW dog, by Nancy Galloway  
 In honor of Atticus, by Jean-Jacques Dethier & Shilpa Patel  
 In honor of Bodie, by Barbara Giddo  
 In honor of Caleb (Cam), by John Nilsson & Jennifer Knight  
 In honor of Cooper and any other animals who are waiting for their forever homes, by Cassandra Weiner  
 In honor of Dallas, by Xochitl Zamora-Thompson  
 In honor of Ernie, by Cheryl & Patricia Johnson  
 In honor of Espea, by Sharon Herndon  
 In honor of Gretchen, adopted in 2015 & still going strong, by Diane Thompson & Robert Kengle  
 In honor of Junie, by Joanna & Matt Haley  
 In honor of Luke, AKA Lance, by Rosalind Steere. Thanks for

giving me 10 years with him.  
 In honor of my darling adopted beagle, Charlie, by Iris Rainone  
 In honor of PAW dog, Casey, by Wendy & Jay Smith  
 In honor of PAW dog, Jackie, by Sean & Lisa Perry  
 In honor of PAW rescue dog, Zeke, by Giselle Bourgeois  
 In honor of Peanut, by Carolina Aguiar Cerrone  
 In honor of Piper, by Gina Shamshak  
 In honor of Rue, by Christopher Wilson  
 In honor of Sadye, by Brenda & Nate Pooner  
 In honor of Sassy & Rose, by Martin Kwapinski & Una Murphy  
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 In honor of Sophie, by T & Wayne Humphries  
 In honor of Stormy, by Joan Guberman  
 In honor of Tessa, by Ed Pastula  
 In honor of Tiger, by Gene Hinman  
 In honor of Whiskey, by Joshua & Jennifer Keepes

### In memory of pets:

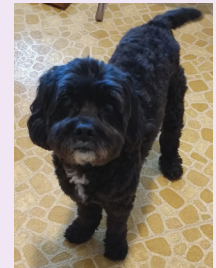
In loving memory of Katie & Raven, adopted from PAW in 2004, by Ms. Kyle Z. & Mr. Alan G.R. Bell  
 In memory of Acro, by Linda Ward  
 In memory of Brooke, by Jayme & Greg Leger  
 In memory of Cassidy, 1999–2012, by Martha M. Sippel  
 In memory of Cheyenne, by Charles & Charlotte Trainor  
 In memory of Chip, by Joan Guberman  
 In memory of Cricket, by Karen Drake  
 In memory of Jake, by Gordon & Peggy Lester

In memory of Lacy Dunn, a beloved golden retriever, by Deborah Boettcher  
 In memory of Leroy, my beloved mixed terrier adopted from PAW in 1987, by Katrina Boverman  
 In memory of Luke, AKA Man Cat, & Zoe the Toe, by Skye & Daniel Chacon  
 In memory of Melvin, by Frank Correl  
 In memory of my PAW dog, Billy, by Catherine Stirling  
 In memory of my two cats, Blackjack & Kemper, by Ellen & Judd Moul  
 In memory of Olivia, by Jackie Threatte  
 In memory of our beloved PAW dog, Peanut, by Lori Lubin  
 In memory of our beloved PAW dog, Tyke, by Kathleen Beres & Miller Einsel  
 In memory of our dog, Cinnamon Rose, by Donna & Brian Almquist  
 In memory of our sweet orange kitty, Buddy, by Kristin & Donald Greulich. He welcomed and was affectionate to every other rescue animal we adopted.  
 In memory of PAW dog, Coakley, by Wendy & Jay Smith  
 In memory of Peach, by Eleanor Glatly  
 In memory of Radar, by Marianne Holmes  
 In memory of Reba (2005–2020), adopted 2007, by Maureen Dezell  
 In memory of Susie, PAW rescue cat & wonderful pet, by Jean Polatsek  
 In memory of the friendliest cat ever, Buddy Greulich, by Linda & George Uram  
 In memory of Violet, our 15-year-old PAW cat, by The Loftus Family



## WOOFIE'S FUND Continues!

In memory of his beloved cockapoo, Woofie, Michael Weiss continues to generously support PAW in his name. We thank Michael for helping us save the lives of more companion animals than we could have otherwise. The PAW kitties and pups send Michael and Woofie their love, and the PAW humans send their gratitude.



**Woofie: March 4, 2017, one day before 12th birthday**





**Partnership for Animal Welfare**  
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## PAW Shakes to. . .

- PAW's ADOPTION SHOW HELPERS, DRIVERS, and FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS for sacrificing many hours throughout the week to help keep our group going.
- PAW's KENNEL BUDDIES, who exercise and socialize our kennel dogs all week.
- TRANSPORTERS, who take them to and from the vets. The dogs and cats are so grateful.
- PAW's FOSTER and ADOPTIVE FAMILIES—we couldn't save lives without you.
- VETERINARIANS AND STAFF at Beltsville Veterinary Hospital; Animal Behavior and Wellness Center & Amy Pike, DVM, DACVB; College Park Animal Hospital; Lake Forest Animal Hospital; Veterinary Orthopedic Sports Medicine Group Pet+ER/Columbia, MD; CVCA/Columbia, MD; and Dr. Omobolaji Eniola at Petwell Veterinary Hospital for providing reduced-cost medical care to PAW's homeless dogs and cats.
- TRAINERS Beth Joy, Joyce Loebig, Sarah Stoycos, Jen Boyd-Morin, Jennifer Owens, and Jackie Moyano for their generosity, help, and training advice for our more challenging dogs.
- YOUR DOG'S FRIEND, Debra Ekman for offering free workshops, training referrals, and more.
- DALE'S PET GROOMING in Laurel, Dale Martins for free grooming of PAW dogs and cats.
- PRESTON COUNTRY CLUB FOR PETS in Columbia, owner Fred Wolpert, Quan Harper, Sarah Horstkamp, Tyler Crotty, and all our friends at Preston.
- SNIFFERS DOGGIE RETREAT in Rockville, owners Hillary Stains and Laura Mathieson Green, for boarding some of our dogs at discounted rates, and all Sniffers staff for the kindness and energy they give to PAW dogs.
- PARADISE FOR PETS in Beltsville, many thanks.
- LAST BUT NEVER LEAST, Maryland-area PETSMART, PETCO, LOYAL COMPANION, and PET VALU stores for hosting our weekly dog and cat adoption shows.

## PAW Shakes

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*Editors:* Lisande Bissonette and  
Jodi Koehn-Pike

Partnership for Animal Welfare, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1074  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20768  
(301) 572-4PAW (4729)  
[www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org)

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