

Mosby's Mission All About the Dogs!

PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402 • 540-885-2260 • info@themosbyfoundation.org • www.themosbyfoundation.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOSBY FOUNDATION

Wookie's Story

Sometimes you just know.

And that's the way it was for Mel. As soon as she saw Wookie, a six to eight-week-old Brussel Griffon that had been dropped at a farm, she felt a deep connection she couldn't explain.

A disabled civil servant who experienced seizures from a brain injury, Mel had just lost her service dog who alerted her to potential seizures. When she saw Wookie, they instantly bonded and became inseparable, literally going everywhere together. When Wookie was six months old, Mel wanted to enroll him in a school to train as her alert dog.

There were two problems. First, her income was limited. Second, alerting guardians to potential seizures is an innate ability. Mel didn't know if Wookie had that ability, but she had a strong suspicion that he did.

As it turned out, a local service dog organization allowed Mel to enroll Wookie in their training program at no charge. She was thrilled! And, as you can guess, Wookie passed with flying colors.

For six years, Wookie faithfully alerted Mel when he knew she was about to have a seizure, allowing her to immediately take medication to avoid them. "He has saved my life many times," she told us.

But it wasn't just Mel who benefitted from Wookie's calm, gentle manner. The kids at the Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University where Wookie volunteered, loved him too. No matter the pediatric diagnosis, Wookie had a knack for finding the child who most needed a hug and would go to those children.

Parents often told Mel it was the first time they had seen their child smile since their diagnosis. Wookie also volunteered with Special Olympics where he was dearly loved. And the feeling was mutual. Wookie loved. loved.

loved kids!

Really, Wookie loved everyone, from children to the elderly. "Wookie sees the people who are struggling the most and he goes up to them. He's been a lifesaver to many," Mel said.

Then one night, Wookie woke
Mel up screaming in his sleep,
his legs were stiff, and his head
was thrown back. Terrified, Mel
didn't know what to do. She finally
got Wookie awake and he settled down.

Then it happened again and again, all while Wookie was sleeping. Scared, Mel took him to the vet. X-rays showed an enlarged heart and a heart murmur, which was odd. A full physical a few months earlier gave Wookie a clean bill of health.

The vet concluded he was having seizures and prescribed seizure medication, but the medication only increased Wookie's episodes. Baffled, Mel's vet referred Wookie to a neurologist for further evaluation. Much to her surprise, the neurologist didn't think Wookie was having seizures at all. Instead, he thought

the little dog was having an issue with his heart.

A cardiology consult proved to be more problematic with the conclusion that Wookie was having a heart issue that mimicked a seizure. At this point, Mel was beyond panicked.

The Mosby Foundation PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402 540-885-2260



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NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



We are excited about 2022 and having events again. We are putting on two big events this year. In April, we are having a fun day for dogs and their people in Harrisonburg, VA You can find the details in this newsletter. In November, we are bringing back the 5K! It will be great fun to enjoy the outdoors with our furry friends! There will be a virtual option for our friends outside the Shenandoah Valley.

This newsletter has stories about dogs with complicated treatments. We share remarkable stories with you, but often it is often a far less exotic problem for a majority of our clients. Broken bones, pyometra, heartworms, dental abscesses and obstructions are most common. 70% of our cancer funds go to simple tumor removals. 2021 brought our first pet bunny attack (the poor dog was much smaller than the rabbit) and a bobcat attack. No one knows what kinds of scrapes our dogs will get into. We are grateful to our donors that we have funds to help these dogs in their time of need.

In support of canines, David Fitt, President







Wookie's Story DAY #46

continued from page 1

The thought of losing her dog combined with the stress of the financial veterinary burden was almost more than she could bear. She had little money, but she wanted a second opinion. Wookie was her dear companion, but he was also her lifeline. She needed to be sure that the diagnosis was correct.

In desperation, Mel started a GoFundMe page for Wookie, and she applied for grants. To her shock, the community responded. Through her strong volunteerism, Mel herself had touched a lot of lives, and people responded. "After all you've done for me, you deserve this help," was the response she received again and again.

Humbled and grateful, the donations Mel received allowed her to get that second opinion. And it's a good thing she did. After a thorough examination, this cardiologist gave Wookie a halter monitor to wear for 24 hours which would show exactly how his heart was functioning.

As expected, that night Wookie had more episodes. He woke Mel up screaming, again and again. In a twelve-hour period, he had so many episodes she became alarmed and took the halter monitor off. She didn't know if she did the right thing or not, but she couldn't watch her dog suffer.

Once again, Mel's instincts were spot on. The cardiologist reassured her she did the right thing. Then he told her the astounding results. The monitor showed that Wookie's heart didn't have a seizure-like condition. Instead, it was literally stopping for 25-30 seconds per episode! That's why he was screaming. Every night—multiple times per night—his heart stopped beating.

The cardiologist recommended an immediate pacemaker and referred her to Virginia Tech's veterinary hospital. Stunned, Mel was overcome with fear and desperation. "I was too afraid to go to sleep," she told us. "I was afraid he would die before I could get him help."

In the wee hours of the morning, Mel called Virginia Tech, explaining that Wookie was not only her beloved companion, but he also provided the vital service of alerting her to potential seizures. She relied on him 100%. "Without him, I wouldn't be alive," she told them. The hospital told her to bring him in.

With no clue how she would pay for Wookie's treatment, Mel packed a bag and prayed. It was then her roommate volunteered to loan Mel some money for the surgery. Overcome with gratitude, she immediately drove in the middle of the night to get Wookie to Virginia Tech.

When Mel got there, she had one request. "If he's going to pass away, just tell me. I need to be there immediately." She really thought she was going to lose him. But Wookie was a fighter. He had too many reasons to live.

In the meantime, The Mosby Foundation had received Wookie's application and we, too, wanted to help. Wookie



was not just Mel's companion; he was the reason she could live a normal life. We wanted to make sure he continued his job.

Mel was shocked when we told her we wanted to help. Between the unexpected financial strain and the emotional stress, she broke down. "I can't thank you enough," she said. "This is another answer to my prayers."

The hospital performed Wookie's surgery, implanting the desperately needed pacemaker. Now when his heart slowed down too much, the device would give it a little buzz to start beating more consistently. It wasn't a straight-line journey back to health. There were several healing obstacles, but Wookie overcame them.

Incredibly, not even post-surgery and heavy sedation could stop this remarkable little dog from doing his job. Wookie still alerted Mel when she was about to have a seizure. "I was getting ready to drive my car," Mel told us. "If he hadn't alerted me, I could have killed myself or someone else while driving."

Mel could not believe it. "Service dogs give their guardians everything," she said quietly. Maybe that's why day #46 post-surgery was special to her.

The dog who had saved her life so many times now had his own life back. Once again, they could begin to enjoy all the wonderfully ordinary things in life, like a short walk in the park. Yes, just a walk.

After all he endured, Mel watched with a happy heart as Wookie's head perked up, his nose eagerly sniffing the air. Mel couldn't help it; she cried tears of joy.

The Mosby Foundation is extremely grateful to the Petco Love Foundation for their continued generous financial support, and to donors like you.

Gimme Shelter

We are helping so many dogs, we do not have space to list them all!



KIMBER, Newark, OH

Our hearts skip a beat when we see cute Kimber the Corgi. PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus) is a life-threatening birth defect that determines the way the heart pumps blood through the heart to the rest of the body. Because of your big hearts, Kimber was able to have the necessary surgery and now has a normal heart beat with no murmur. Our hearts go out to Kimber, her pet family, and all those who helped her happy heart keep beating.



Mosby, make our dream come true so Chloe can be her happy self soon. And then it happened! A THR (Total Hip Replacement) meant that Chloe the Rottweiler could run, romp, and have fun! OK, this took time-recovery, exercise, easing into adjusting to a new hip - but watching Chloe wiggle and walk again is a reality. Sometimes dreams really do come true.





BANNER, Missoula, MT Geez Louise, bad knees. Not good news, especially when you're a German Shepherd-Mastiff mix. Snowy walks are much easier now that Banner has had his much-needed operations. Olympic ice skating and dancing competitions may be in this dog's future! Who's a star? ALL of YOU







are!

Need a reason to smile? How about hearing that Opie had twenty-three bad teeth extracted and is able to eat without being in pain? Canines have forty-two teeth, which leaves Opie, a mini-Chihuahua, with nineteen good teeth left for selfies. Smile, you're on Candid Camera!

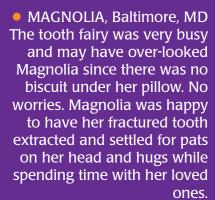




Gimme Shelter continued from page 4

Nora, a Great Pyrenes mix, is not only beautiful and loving, she is also a strong and brave girl. With help from The Petco Love Foundation and the Blue Buffalo Cancer Treatment Fund, The Mosby Foundation contributed to the removal of Nora's mammary tumors. "You guys seriously made it possible for me to be able to save her life."





Let's continue to pass along the healing process.





No matter how hard you try, you can't study for a heartworm test. If you could, smart Piggy wouldn't have failed the exam. Shots, medicine, keeping calm- all part of the procedure to pass the test. Possible? Absolutely, with patience, diligence, and finances. Piggy is on her way to making the grades. She's at the half-way mark and will pull through this with straight A's. This little Piggy is on her way to a healthy recovery, thanks to our donors.



St. Bernard's have a reputation for saving lives, but sometimes their lives are in danger. Huggable Jessie needed to have her front left leg amputated after being diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Looking at the pain in your pet's eyes goes deep, but so does the cost to have this operation. Jessie, we are so pleased that we were able to come to your rescue. You're a three- legged wonder!

WYNONA, Sparks, NV

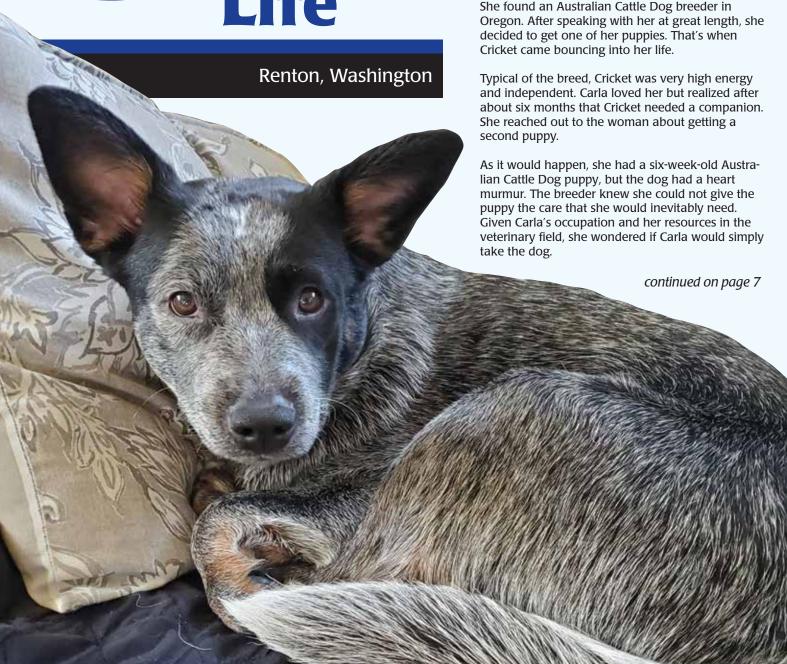
Once the fun of going for walks turned into painful times, it was a sign that something needed to be done. Rottweilers are prone to juvenile hip dysplasia, which was the case for adorable Wynona. Post-surgery was not a walk in the park. Recuperation was a painful process, but once again Wynona is jumping for joy when she sees her leash. "Thank you again for your donation that made this life-changing surgery a possibility for Wynona."



GRIZZLY, UPPER CREEK, PA Grizzly isn't grinning, just yet. He's had one, two, three radiation treatments, so far. His pet family is staying positive and knows it's all about giving Grizzly, a Basset Hound mix, "his best life, ever." This couldn't be possible without financial assistance from organizations like The Mosby Foundation. Soon Grizzly will be able to eat, drink, and be merry. Go team Grizzly!



NEWSLETTER OF THE MOSBY FOUNDATION



It was the best 15 years of her life, and it had gone by much too quickly. "She was my best friend, but it

was her time," Carla said about losing her dog to old age. The loss of her beloved canine companion stayed with her for months. Her absence was a gaping hole that Carla longed to have filled.

But when she was finally ready to get another puppy, her timing couldn't have been worse. It was 2020 and the country was in the in the beginning

grip of the pandemic. Finding dogs, much less puppies, at rescues was extremely difficult because demand was so great. Carla really did not want to get a puppy through a breeder, but she quickly

realized her options were limited.

3 Weeks to a New Life

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Cricket and Beetle

Knowing that there could only be a few conditions that caused the heart problem, Carla agreed to take her. "I knew I could at least give the puppy the best care possible, even if she did not have a long lifespan," she said.

That's when Beetle became a part of Carla's family. It didn't take long for Carla to realize that her new charge was quite different from her older sister. Calmer and more submissive, Beetle was a "snuggle bug." She liked nothing better than to snuggle her head just under Carla's head and wag her tail. Beetle loved her sister and loved people. She just wanted to be touched and loved.

But Carla knew the clock was ticking for this beautiful, sweet puppy. Immediately, she set up an echocardiogram at the veterinary clinic where she worked. The vet confirmed that Beetle had Patent Ductus Arteriosus, PDA, a birth defect causing the heart murmur. A PDA condition is a malfunction of the ductus arteriosus blood vessel.

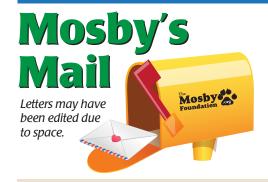
This vessel is critical to normal in utero development, ensuring that blood does not go to the lungs unnecessarily. Once the puppy is born, this blood vessel is supposed to naturally close off, allowing blood to travel normally through the lungs, providing oxygenation.

For dogs with PDA, the blood vessel does not close, causing the heart to work much harder to deliver blood and oxygen to all the vital organs. Beetle's PDA was severe. Her little heart was already enlarged due to the stress of a poorly functioning organ. Without surgical correction, at most, she had only a few months to live.

It was clear. Time was not going to allow Carla the luxury of planning how she would pay for this very expensive procedure. But that didn't stop her; far from it. "I couldn't give up on this little nugget," she said. "She's an amazing dog."

Knowing she had a very small window of opportunity to save her dog's life, Carla jumped into action. She immediately started a GoFundMe page for Beetle. The breeder spread the word to her community as did Carla, and she was able to raise some funds for the surgery.

Carla also applied for grants with organizations across the country, including The Mosby Foundation. When we learned of Beetle's plight, we knew we wanted to help. PDA surgeries have a high rate of success. We wanted Beetle to live the life she was meant to have. Without treatment, her life would end prematurely, and we did not want that to happen.





Dear Mosby Foundation
Enclosed please find a small donation. I hope I can repeat a few times more and more. In 2016 you helped me with my lab Lizzie for an amputation due to cancer. She lived an active, extraordinary life 3 years after until the cancer returned. Your help plus others, was my miracles given to me. Thank you Forever. So I hope to repay you over and over.

Kate Almy Little Compton , RI

Mosby Foundation Thank you for the fine work you do to protect animals. Also, thank you for the educational efforts of your foundation.

Janet K. Schlosser Odenton, MD



Dear Mosby Foundation
Our family and Winnie wanted to
say thank you so much for donating towards her ectopic ureter
surgery. Winnie is all healed up
and doing great. For the first time
in 7 months. She is feeling great
and is leak free, infection free! Her
mile says it the best. This was a
different time for our family and
there are not enough thank Yous'
to express our gratitude for what
your foundation did for our girl.

The Pressburgers Sun Valley, Nevada

Mosby Foundation

We cannot thank you enough for the grant that gave Petie a better quality of life. We are happy to report Petie is doing well and goes back for a check-up early spring. We will be forever grateful for you generosity and you made a very stressful situation more bearable.

Amanda and Heath Tucker Amanda, OH

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY





Mosby Foundation
A big thank you to you and everyone behind this incredible foundation. Roscoe was given a second chance. Ever since his surgery we try to make him live to the fullest. Btw, he was featured in a children and adult coloring book with other 99 beautiful pets. And recently we took him to a restaurant and everyone was so thrilled to see him in a pet stroller.

Angelique Garces Stockton, CA



Mosby Foundation
Dante and his family (humane,
feline & canine) wanted to too thank
you for your support with him
through this process. We are all
grateful for your assistance towards
giving him the best chance possible
to spend more time with us all.
Thank you for everything you do for
so many.

Katrina, Curt and Fur Kids Olyphant, PA

Mosby's Mail

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Mosby Foundation
On behalf of my dog, Camo, and I, I just wanted to say thank you so much for your generous donation towards his chemotherapy. Every amount of financial and emotional support really made a significant difference in our journey with cancer.

I, unfortunately, made the hard decision to put Camo down a couple of weeks ago. His body was really quitting on him and although he still wanted to get up and play fetch, we knew it was that time. Camo had 6 terrific years on this earth as healthy as he could be, 6 months of dealing so well with cancer, and just the last couple of weeks struggling.

I plan to share our journey and the foundations that helped us, including yours on my social media and hopefully through other websites soon. I am so thankful that I was able to find ways to give Camo the best treatment he could get. The vets at CARE and UPenn really helped us as well.

It was the hardest thing I have ever had to do and I look forward to helping others when I can in their own journey with their pets.

Again, thank you so so much for the help. I really hope you are able to support many other dogs and their owners this year.

Deanna DeMattio Daytona Beach, FL

3 Weeks to a New Life

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When we told Carla that she would receive a grant, she was shocked. "I had applied to so many places and The Mosby Foundation was the only organization that responded. I am so grateful!"

Carla quickly made an appointment at the Oregon State University veterinary teaching hospital, then made the four-hour drive. The wonderful advantage of



3 Weeks to a New Life

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a teaching hospital is that it provides specialized veterinary care at a reduced rate.

Just as importantly, Beetle's care would not be compromised either. She was seen by a fully licensed veterinary cardiologist as well as fully licensed veterinarians seeking to specialize in cardiology. Beetle was in excellent hands!

The OSU cardiologist confirmed the severity of Beetle's heart condition and assured her the condition was completely correctable. Following surgery, Beetle would live a normal life.

. . . the condition was completely correctable. Following surgery, Beetle would live a normal life.

Carla breathed a sigh of relief. And the surgery? Even though it was delicate, it was probably the easiest part of Beetle's wellness journey. Because of her size, the surgeon was able to perform the least invasive heart surgery possible.

He went in through an artery in the back of Beetle's leg, and endoscopically plugged up the ductus arteriosis with a device called an Amplatz Canine Duct Occluder. Beetle came through with flying colors!

Now came the hard part, keeping a nine-week-old puppy still for four weeks. Carla had to keep Beetle mildly sedated and in her kennel for most of the four-week recovery period. It wasn't easy because all Beetle wanted to do was jump and play.

Finally, a month later, Beetle was re-checked to make sure the Occluder was still in place. Not only was it in place and doing its job beautifully, but Beetle's heart had also returned to its normal size.

"I cried so hard," Carla told us. She knew all too well how rare it was for a dog with a heart condition to have a happy ending. Or maybe we should say, a happy beginning.



What's even more incredible is how quickly it all came together for Carla. In the span of just three weeks, Carla had her dog diagnosed, funds raised, and lifesaving surgery!

As soon as Carla got the all-clear from Beetle's cardiologist, she took both Cricket and Beetle out to a farm to do what they both were born to do, herd livestock. The sun was shining. The air was clear, and Beetle's heart raced with joy.

We are tremendously grateful to our sponsor, the Petco Love Foundation for their continued support of our work, and to donors like you.

Thank you! 🏖

Memorials

IN HONOR OF PEOPLE

Jaye Schissel, from Karen Van Es

Laura Downing and Michael Swinson, from Dean and Allison Humbert

Elie Brown, for Zeus' medical care, from Chelsie Brown

Janet Riddlebarger, from Maureen Parker

Carole and Johnny Adams, from Vicki Scarratt

IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE

Bob Avery, from Davis and Jane Cangalosi

Mary Jane Good, from Greg Meadows from Agnes Good Powell from Roy Powell

In memory of my mother born in November, by Carol Childress

Edith Von Stuemer, from Claire Jacobsen

Henley Gabeau, from Jeff Darmen

Linda Livick, from Margaret Henderson

Wayne Ryman, from Aunt Fay Bowers and cousins Gale Goodwin and Rhonda Bowers

Patricia D. Swisher, from Claude and Sandra Dull

Francis Bageant, mother of Donald Bageant, from Bev Grimes

Dorothy Hoffman, from Bev Grimes

Henley Gabeau, from Rebecca Schad

Robert and Judy Rodgers, from Becky and Harold Hamner

Betty White, from Linda and Kenneth Greene from Rebecca Upton

Phyllis Tenser, from Dean and Allison Humbert Patty Whitmer, heroine of Page County animals, from The Mosby Foundation from Monica Good from Tracey Triggs from Lisa Williams

IN MEMORY OF DOGS

Owen, from Vicki Edelman

Bruce Poe, from Jeanne Hoffman

Casey and Bella, beloved dogs, from Barbara Bradley

Marley, the best dog ever! from John and Carol Warren

Melvis, from Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Casey, from Rebecca Rader

Moose, wish you were here, from Donna Bengen

Heather, Rip and Red Dog, from John Marlowe

Max, Adolph, Bobo and Del, from Catherine Elick

Dixie, precious little dog of Debbie Johnson Brugg, from Ron Hiserman

Sawyer, my Cocker Spaniel, from Brenda Wilkerson

Isabella Arnold, pup of Ed and Angie Arnold, from Bruce and Crystal Vandercook and Trixie

Greta, from Susan Clark

Mya, from Valentino Bianchini

Jett, beloved friend and companion, from Caiden Skakalski

Stella, beloved dog of the Carrion family, from Stacy Reeder, DVM

Dempsey, beloved dog of the Shwiesow family, from Stacy Reeder, DVM

Louie and Kirby, beloved dogs of Carol Jackson, from Stacy Reeder, DVM

Oliver, beloved family member of the Tantillos family, from Wendy and Larry Teeter

Lizzie, from Kate Almy

Hero, a rescue from and a victim of the Afghanistan War, pup of the Spicka family, from Jeanne T Huffman

Callie DeMatte, pup of Rose Ellen DeMatte, from Nina Jackson

"Sal" Sally Varn, pup of John and Donna Varn, from Chase Your Tail Bakery

Our senior rescue dogs, Adenosine and Halligan, from Anne Lynch

Augie, beloved dog of Nena Hanson, from Diane Toby

Yeller, Creamy, Noel and Nigel, from Sheila Roeder

Scotty, beloved service dog and companion of Chad and Sara, from Shannon Taylor and Wendy Teeter

Bunder, special cat and companion of two decades of Jerry and Jennifer Lazarus, from Jeff and Mary Janick-Smith

IN HONOR OF DOGS

Cody Avery, from Jeanne Hoffman

Tucker, from Diane and Braxton Nagle

Charlie, from Emily Branscome

Our Granddog Tundra, from Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Roxie, from John Marlowe

Sir Winston and Gunner, pups of Willie and Norma Hayden, from C.A. and Maureen Burton

Benji, Dakota, Danzig and Rocket, from Steven Whipple

Atticus, Sophie, Pibb, Mausse and Sophia, from Carol Uffelman

Daisy, from Rebecca Upton



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are. – Unknown

The Mosby Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, to assist in the care of critically Mosby's Mission sick, injured, abused and neglected dogs through financial support and public education. We are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

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