

Greyt Beginnings



1260 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd. , Longwood, FL 32750 • (407) 332-4754 • gpage@greyhoundpetsorlando.org • www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org

From the President: GPA/GO #1 in Adoptions for 2006

GPA/GO is responsible for over 2,323 adoptions since 1996

We recently received notice that of nearly 60 chapters in GPA, our Greater Orlando Organization had the top number of adoptions last year. This is quite an accomplishment we should all be very proud of. In 2006 we had 238 adoptions with the next closest chapter close behind at 228.

For 2007 we stand at 104 adoptions. Our first 5 months stood at 12 adoptions per month. We have been back doing hauls in June and July. June yielded 19 adoptions and July should bring us to 25. The numbers are headed in the right direction. We will continue to focus on hauls and local adoptions to keep our numbers on the rise.

The beginning of June we sent 6 females to Virginia and 5 dogs headed to Canada the beginning of July. 6 more dogs went to Virginia the middle of July and another 6 are heading to Canada very soon. Thank you to everyone involved in this process of selecting dogs, vetting and prepping the dogs, making arrangements with the partnering organization and the actual haul itself. All this hard work is saving more of these precious greyhounds.

As your new president, the past few months have been very eye-opening. There are so many facets to this organization. Thankfully there are many talented and dedicated volunteers meeting the needs of GPA/GO.

Funding, Adoptions, and Maintenance issues continue to be our priorities. The office is getting a

face lift and dedicated volunteers are helping with ongoing maintenance issues as they need to be addressed. A plan for events and fundraising is underway. As you can see



Monica, MacKenzie, Belle, Background and Debbie on their way to their new homes in Canada, July 7, 2007

our newsletter has a beautiful new format. Soon our website will have a complementary design. We will continue to count on all of our members to help us achieve goals in all these areas. Thank you all for your continued support of this fine organization.

Please contact us with any feedback, ideas, or volunteer and financial support you are able to offer. Your participation keeps us going!

2007-2008 Theme: Solutions and Success Stories

Mission Statements

- We will maintain and improve our operational and financial stability.
- We will present all GPA/GO First Impressions to the community as positive, welcoming and committed.
- We will create a strong committed volunteer base

that is effective, has fun and is appreciated.

- We renew our commitment to the mission of GPA National.

The Board

- Pres. - Brian Wettstein
- Treas. - Charlotte McDonald
- Sec. - Amy Lomaglio
- Joan Harris
- Suzanne Pagana

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Upcoming EVENTS

August

- GPA/GO Board Meeting Aug 7
- Internet Raffle ends Aug 15
- Dog Days of Summer Wine Tasting Aug 24, 5-8 p.m. BullFish, Winter Park

September

- GPA/GO General Membership Meeting Sept 9, 5-7 p.m. Casselberry Police Station
- Petsmart National Adoption Weekend Sept 14, 15, & 16 .
- Greyhound Planet Days Sept 16 to the 23.

October

- Macy's "Shop for a Cause", Oct 13. Shopping passes available in Sept.
- Ocoee Founders' Day (TBA)
- Park Avenue Pet Costume Contest , 11-3 p.m. downtown Winter Park

November

- FunDay (TBA)
- Internet Auction (TBA)

Greys in the SPOTLIGHT

SAND DEE DEE AND WHISTLER'S DONNA aka "Bonnie" and Donna"

These two sweet six-years old "sisters" have been through a lot together. Originally adopted to a couple in up north, they were surrendered to GPA/GO when the couple moved to Florida. The girls did not receive the best of care.



Sand Dee Dee aka Bonnie

It was apparent that Bonnie and Donna were true "sisters" as the bond between them was so strong and we knew we could not separate them.

After several months in a foster home together, they were adopted by a very nice family. Unfortunately, this family's circumstances changed, and the girls again found themselves back at GPA. They are back in the same foster home they were previously in.



Whistler's Donna aka Donna

All these changes in their lives did not dampen their spirits or change their gentle demeanors. Bonnie and Donna are cat safe and do great with other dogs. If you have considered adopting two Greyhounds, Bonnie and Donna are a perfect pair of pretty, brindle girls who will fit right in and bring joy to their lucky new family!

If you are interested, please call the GPA/GO office (407) 332-4754 or e-mail us through our Web site.

Remember, you are the only means of defense and safety that your greyhound has. They are depending on you to look out for them and to keep them safe.

Lost Greyhounds

Your worst nightmare has happened, and your Greyhound has escaped – what do you do now? The first thing you must do is call GPA—Greater Orlando! When you call GPA, you are activating a search and rescue network to help find your missing hound. Those first few hours are critical to the return of your beloved friend. An e-mail alert will go out to our general membership letting hundreds of greyhound owners know that there is a dog in jeopardy.



Here is a link to a wonderful article found on www.greytalk.com that addresses exactly what to do if your greyhound escapes. After calling GPA, you need to follow these directions to help you find your pet. <http://forum.greytalk.com/index.php?showtopic=72473>

I bet that you are sitting there reading this article and thinking that this will never happen to you! I hope that you are right, I really do! Here is a list of things that you can do now so that you won't need the link above later!

Gates – make sure that they are securely locked. Double check them, especially after any kind of workmen have been in your backyard.

Fences – do a weekly check to make sure that your fence is secure. This is especially important after any storms that may have blown down sections of fencing. Also be on the alert for areas where your hound may have dug a hole next to the fence. They are large dogs, but they can squeeze their way through a hole if they really want to!

Doors – place a sign inside your front door reminding both family members and guests that your dogs might try to escape when the door is open. Be cautious when opening your door to receive packages, as hounds like to slip out while your hands are busy!

Guests – during the summer season we are all likely to have guests in our homes. Take a few minutes to educate your guests of the importance of keeping your greyhound in the house or fenced yard.

Cars – another common way for greyhounds to escape is when they are being loaded and unloaded from your vehicles. Use extreme caution when opening and closing the doors as you load your hound. If you are loading a van or SUV, it is sometimes easier to get in the back with the pups, shut the door, then work your way to the front seat from within the vehicle.

Workmen – whenever we are having work done on our homes, it is critically important that we take the necessary steps to insure that our greyhounds stay safe. Of course you will want to explain to workers that your dog needs to stay in the house, but do not count on them to remember this. You as the owner need to take steps to ensure your hounds safety. A babygate can be a helpful tool in containing your dogs in a safe out of the way room while the work is progressing. Crates and X-pens are also tools that could be used to confine your pups to a safer zone.

Greys in the SPOTLIGHT

MIZ WILMA

This precious little girl had a home all lined up to move to, after so many years on a farm.

Her spay surgery was routine, but the vet found a small lump on her tummy, which she removed.



Miz Wilma

Biopsy revealed that the lump was a mast cell cancer and that the margins were close - so after a few weeks, the vet went back and removed more of the surrounding tissue, and the margins were much wider. Knowing that mast cell tumors can come back, we consulted a world renowned cancer researcher in Ohio, Dr. Couto. He suggested, as a precaution, four months of chemotherapy. This consisted of giving Wilma one pill every three weeks and carefully monitoring her white blood cells—we did all of this and Wilma came through the treatment like a champs!

She is a delight, and her foster homes parents adore her. Wilma is happy, friendly, cat safe, and wonderfully loving. GPA has gone to great measures to insure the future of this special little girl, and now she is looking for someone special who will accept of her past medical history, and see what a gem she is.

If you are interested, please call the GPA/GO office or e-mail us through our Web site.

Greyt FUNDRAISING

Dog Days of Summer Wine Tasting and Internet Raffle

Our two main fundraisers right now involve wine and your computer! Check out www2.greyhoundpetsorlando.org for a chance to win some wonderful items for you and your pets. Donut beds for your dogs, paw print purses and wallets for you and a raised feeder for your dogs as well. This raffle is live now and will close on August 15th. Our last internet raffle raised nearly \$1,300. The goal for this raffle is \$1,500. Please e-mail blast your friends, family and co-workers. Great opportunities to win some great products and help our organization.



The Dog Days of Summer Wine Tasting on Friday August 24th from 5-8 p.m. at BullFish in downtown Winter Park. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. All admission money will go directly to GPA and 10% of all store sales will be donated as well. The evening features up to 8 dog labeled wines, food by Let's Eat and desserts by It's Delish! Your dogs are welcome to join you. We will also feature greyhound artist Jennifer Sauer, Photographer Sandra Johnson and Caricature Artist Brian Nutt. Call (407) 644-2969 for more info.

For the Fall we'll have **another Internet Raffle** as well as **the Park Avenue Costume Contest** on Sunday Oct 28th. November will also bring the popular **FunDay** and an **Online Auction** we hope to raise between \$7,000 - \$10,000. Details will follow at our next **General Membership meeting** on Sunday September 9th from 5-7 p.m. at the Casselberry Police Station.

The Cash for Critters program continues with the your donations of old cell phones and used printer cartridges. We continue to need those **Purina Weight Circles** as they go directly toward our medical bills at Longwood Vet Clinic. We are also still **recycling newspapers**. Thanks for dropping your donations at our facility whenever you can. We are also working on some grants that we hope to see come through during the Fall and 4th quarter.

Thank you all for your support of our events and fundraisers. Lots of Fun events planned for next year as well. Stay tuned!

COLLARS and TAGS —A LIFELINE for your Greyhound

You bought the fancy dog bed. Your pup has more toys than he knows what to do with. You take him for car rides, and shower him with love and attention. All your friends think your greyhound is just the most lucky and spoiled dog around! Think again if your hound is missing the most important piece of equipment that could save his life. What is this life saving necessity? Why a tag collar and tags of course! Having a current tag with all the owner information is a lifeline for your greyhound if the unthinkable happens and they get loose. Right away the presence of a collar and tags tells other people that this is a valued pet running loose. Strangers are much more likely to try and catch a dog with ID, than a stray. Once caught, the information on the tag will help to reunite you with your beloved pet.

So please, make sure that your greyhound is wearing a tag collar with up to date tags at all times. If you have moved, or your home phone or cell phone numbers have changed, please take the time to get another tag made. Remember – tag collars save lives – don't leave your greyhound naked!

Pool and Sun SAFETY

By Pat Jefts

Summer is here in full swing and along with the fun we must keep safety on the forefront. Greyhounds are not good swimmers due to their lack of buoyancy. Here are some precautions to protect your pet.

Supervision. Be watchful when your Greyhound is around a pool or water area.

- Always keep fenced in pools locked or secured.
- Always keep your pet away from an unfenced pool.
- Be vigilant if you have a door that leads right out to the pool area.

Right from the Beginning. Help your Greyhound learn that the

swimming pool is not a flat surface. Dip your pet's paw into the water and splash the surface so he/she can see the surface is not hard. Take your pet into the pool with you if he/she will go and lead him/her to the steps to show an escape path. Don't feel assured that

your Greyhound will never fall into the pool or that he/she will get to the pool steps to get out if one does fall in. If you have installed a doggie door – never have the door open into the pool area. Greyhounds have gotten trapped inside enclosed screen areas and the results can be drowning or heat stroke.

Beware of Pool Covers

If your dog walks across one, it may sink or get caught under the cover. If your Greyhound does accidentally fall in the pool, rinse him/her off - the chemicals can cause skin irritations. Dry your dog off since a wet dog is more susceptible to sunburn. Also dry

ears to prevent ear infections. Provide fresh water for drinking and discourage your dog from drinking treated pool water.

Beware of SunBurn

Just like humans, our canine

companion can get sunburn so sunscreen is important. Some sunscreens can be toxic. Baby sunscreen can be safe, but check with your vet for certainty.



After applying a safe sunscreen, offer a treat to distract your dog from licking the sunscreen. A lightweight tee shirt makes a good cover up.

Avoiding too much sun is still the best option to prevent sunburn as well as heat exhaustion.

A safer way for your Greyhound to enjoy a cool

dip while you enjoy yours is a kiddie pool filled with fresh water. Your pooch can cool off and not feel left out. Empty and change the water like you would for a child. When not in use, empty the pool and put it up so it does not become an unsupervised hazard in your yard.

The GOAL is for your Greyhound and you to have a Happy and Safe summer!

Symptom's of heatstroke include heavy panting, weakness, mental depression, vomiting, and diarrhea. If your dog exhibits these symptoms, the best emergency treatment is to wet them down with cool (not cold) water. After the cooling process, proceed immediately to the veterinarian for continued care.

Visit www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org and read Rick Marrinson's (DVM Longwood Veterinary Clinic) article about heat stroke, and other factors to consider during hot summer days.

TOXIC FOODS Reminder

Please remember, while we all enjoy sharing treats with our greyhounds, certain human foods can have an adverse toxic reaction in greyhounds.

Please keep the following foods out of reach of your dog:

- Grapes • Raisins • Chocolate – especially dark chocolate • Onions • Macadamia Nuts • Cooked fat from beef, chicken and pork • Cooked bones – they may splinter • Coffee, tea and other caffeinated foods • Alcoholic beverages • Garlic • Yeast dough

"Hot Weather Kit"

Your portable "Hot Weather Kit" should include the following first aid items:

- * Water for drinking and for cool compresses.
- * Absorbent towels to apply compresses.
- * Small socks for blistered paws (and tape to hold them on).
- * Alcohol (rubbing) to help cool the skin temperature.
- * Triple antibiotic ointment for blistered pads.

Greyt VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a few hours that you could give to help the Greys on a weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly basis? Do you have a special skill or interest that you'd like to put to work helping the Greyhounds?

If you answered, "yes" to one or both of these questions, then joining the volunteer team at GPA/GO might be just the ticket for you!

In the past few months, volunteers have assisted in preparing and transporting some of our precious Greys to out-of-state adoption groups. In addition, parts of the office have been painted and re-carpeted and new seating has been put in place. The tarps covering the turn-out pens have been replaced, and drying racks for the kennel carpets have been built – all by our volunteers.

Meet 'n greets and events are our lifeline to promoting and increasing adoptions. During the hot summer months we concentrate on meet 'n greets held indoors, and in the fall we participate in many outdoor events when the weather is cooler. At this time we are trying to start additional meet 'n greets at Petco and Petsmart stores in the Orlando area. This venue is a great way to introduce the general public to what great pets retired racers make, in addition to informing people about our adoption process. Nothing is better than meeting a Greyhound "face to nose"! These events take place on a regularly scheduled day of the month, usually a Saturday or Sunday for two or three hours. Establishing more regular meet 'n greets

around Orlando is vital to continuing our mission of finding loving homes for retired racers.

In addition to meet 'n greets, GPA\GO has volunteer opportunities in the following areas:

- Fostering
- Grounds maintenance
- Fundraising
- Events
- Kennel duties
- eBay sales
- Grant writing

It could be that you love carpentry or organizing things. Maybe you have a hobby that could help the Greyhounds (such as sewing, gardening, or creative talents) or have office skills, legal expertise, or computer skills to contribute. Your time and abilities are important to the Greyhounds waiting for a new start in life.

Join our volunteer team. Make a difference for the Greys. If you are interested, please call the GPA/GO office (407) 332-4754 or e-mail us through our Web site.



"Greyhounds Make Great Pets"

"Greyhounds Make Great Pets" is the lively and informative Internet radio program hosted by GPA-National President Rory Goree along with co-hosts Kari Morrison-Young (of Arizona Adopt A Greyhound), Kathy Hoynes (artist and owner of Greyhound Studies) and Gil Caldwell (GPA-Richmond). Also on hand is the irreverent and loveable Mr. Monkey. GMGP has been on the air since June of 2004 and is heard by over 20,000 fans worldwide via the RooOne Network at www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org.

The show focuses on topics that are of concern and interest to greyhound owners as well as pet owners. Adoption groups are highlighted as well as people making the world a better place for our greyhounds. Rounding out the hour is the Party Desk with birthday and gotcha day announcements as well as nationwide events that you and your greyhounds do not want to miss. New shows are available every other Monday but if you miss a show, don't worry...all previous shows are archived. The GMGP shows can be downloaded to your computer or I-Pod for 24/7 listening pleasure.

GMGP recently launched their new greyhound discussion board called Greyhounds Make Great Pets (imagine that!). This fun, hip and informative discussion board is open to all greyhound lovers and its goal is to bring everyone together to learn, share, discuss (ok, debate) and grow in our ever evolving greyhound experience.

Please take a moment to visit and join the new Greyhounds Make Great Pets discussion board at www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.com. A million greyhounds and a monkey can't be wrong.



GPA National Update

By Rory S. Goree, President, Greyhound Pets of America—National

What is happening on the GPA National level? We continue to focus on the future, while trying to deal with the here and now. The world of greyhound racing has changed over the year's breeding are way down and some predict that this year's puppies that will be registered in 2008 will number in the range of 15,000-17,000. That is a big change from the early 2000's when we had 26,000 puppies registered each year.

What does this mean for us? Not much right now, too early to break out with the party hats, we are going to see a few tracks reopening, planned track closures, unplanned closures and other events over the next couple of years. We may even see racing expanded outside of the United States. It was tried a couple of years ago in Juarez Mexico, thankfully if failed, but nothing will stop the next person with money to burn to try and give it a go. Why might racing eventually expand outside the United States, well for one, no regulations, no headaches of welfare advocates, and more control on purses.

"I want to personally thank every volunteer in the greater Orlando area; greyhounds would not be finding homes without you."

We may finally be in the 5-10 year window where our headaches of too many hounds are resolved here in the States, only to see it expanded in places that we can not reach.

I've had more information cross my desk that I wish to know about, but it would be stupid of me to not take this information and plan for our hounds future, so while most days at the National level are spent trying to resolve personal conflicts, dealing with people upset that they didn't get a dog, we spend a little time processing these bits of information so that our chapters will not be left standing alone when a situation arises.

I want to personally thank every volunteer in the greater Orlando area; greyhounds would not be finding homes without you. Each hound you place, assist in placing, meet and greet attended, each haul, every aspect of your operation is vital to our greyhounds.

Thank you,
Rory

Does This Collar Make Me Look Fat?

Have you noticed how as humans, we always seem to be worrying about our weight? Are we too skinny, are we too heavy, it never ends! One area we might not be paying close enough attention to though is the weight of our Greyhound. Greyhounds are a naturally lean dog. They carry a much lower percentage of body fat than other breeds. That is why a 70 pound Greyhound looks so much thinner than a 70 Lab. Our Greyhounds carry most of their weight in a trim package of lean muscle.

When first adopted, many Greyhounds are right off the track, and they come to you looking rather skinny. This is what is called their 'racing weight' and it is probably lighter than they need to be now that they are in retirement. While it is human nature to want to 'fatten them up', we must however be cautious in the amount of weight we allow our hounds to gain once retired. It is not in your Greyhounds best interest to be carrying around excess weight, as this will be a burden to their skeletal and cardiac systems. How do you know when enough is enough?



You should still be able to see the hint of hip bones and see the shadow of the last couple of ribs. All ribs should be easily felt, not covered with a thick layer of fat.

If you find that your Greyhound needs to lose a bit of weight, make sure to take it very slowly. Cutting down their kibble portion by a quarter of a cup each meal will help them to gradually get back to an ideal weight. Exercise is also a great way to get your Greyhound trim and fit, so why add a leisurely walk to your schedule weather permitting?



Does this couch make me look fat?

REMEMBER—Before taking your Grey for a walk during hot summer days, test the pavement and/or asphalt. Walk out onto the pavement in your bare feet. If it feels hot to you, you know your Grey will get their pads burned. Dogs walking on hot pavement or hot sand can blister their pads from the heat. Read more: www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org

Greyt NEWS

Greyhound Pets of America Greater Orlando

1260 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Longwood, Florida 32750

Phone: (407) 332-4754

Fax: (407) 332-8093

www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org

Advertising

Advertising space will be available in future issues. \$25.00 for a business card size ad.

Larger ad space available.

Please contact us by telephone or email if you are interested in placing an ad.

Phone: (407) 332-4754

E-mail: gpago@greyhoundpetsorlando.org

Please submit any articles, jokes, stories, dedications, pictures for future editions of the newsletter to spagana@earthlink.net

Free AAA Prescription Savings Program

The AAA Prescription Savings Card saves members an average of 20 percent on their prescriptions. And the best part is, it's free to all members! The AAA Prescription Savings Card can be used any time the regular retail prescription price is being paid. For example, your card may be used any time a prescription is not covered by insurance. This would include drugs not covered under Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

Even pet medications are discounted.

To print your free card from your computer, simply visit AAA.com/prescriptions and present it to your local pharmacy. There are 57,000 participating pharmacies nationwide, so chances are your local pharmacy accepts the AAA Prescription Savings Card. This website also allows you to look up individual drug coverage and pricing. This can prove to be a valuable resource, and its possible a member's flat co pay through insurance could be more then the AAA Prescription Savings Card price.

To find your nearest participating pharmacy, visit your local AAA branch, call (866) AAA-SAVE (222-7283) or go online at AAA.com/Prescriptions. AAA Prescription Savings is not an insurance plan. Savings are only available at participating pharmacies.

GREYTALK



Have you ever had a question about something to do with your Greyhound? Ever wanted to share that cute story about something special your hound just did? Ever wished you could ask other Greyhound owners their opinions on food choices and training issues?

Well now you can! Just log on to www.greytalk.com and you can be a part of an online community of Greyhound enthusiasts! Greytalk is a privately owned website devoted to Greyhounds and their families. This site is a giant message board, with over a dozen different "rooms" where you can discuss a variety of topics pertaining to Greyhounds. From medical to cute and funny, to a special place to remember the hounds that have crossed the bridge, Greytalk is a place to make friends and gain information.

There is no cost involved to participate on Greytalk, so come on in and register, and find out what everyone is talking about! See you soon on Greytalk!

GPA/GO Membership/Donation/Sponsorship Form

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check:

General Membership \$25 Sponsor _____ **Greyhound(s) \$ 10 a month** General Donation \$ _____

Payment Options – Please check appropriate boxes:

Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually Check* Charge (please fill in credit card information below)

*If you have chosen to make monthly payments by check, would you like a set of payment coupons? Yes No

Name on card _____ Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Mail form and check to: Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Orlando, 1260 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd. Longwood, FL 32750

GPA/GO is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by IRS regulations. Our IRS authorization number is 95-4114011.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Registration # CH10891

SHOW and TAIL

Our Monthly Meet N' Greets

Petsmart

Lake Mary: 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, 12-3 p.m.

Oviedo: 3rd Saturday of the month, 12-3 p.m.

Petco

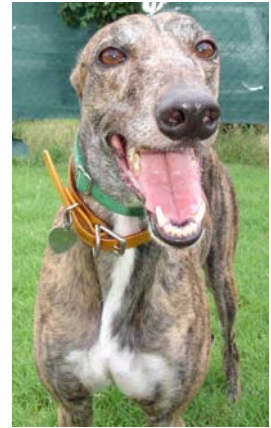
Sanford: 1st & 2nd Saturday of the month, 11-3 p.m.

Pets Supermarket

Deltona: 4th Saturday of the month, 11-2 p.m.

Sanford Orlando Kennel Club

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Fridays & Saturdays of the month, evenings and Saturday matinees



Each month GPA/GO promotes Greyhound adoption and education at various stores that partner with us. More opportunities are constantly opening up to us to show this wonderful breed. Coordinators and volunteers are needed at these various sites plus at BullFish in Winter Park along with other stores throughout the Greater Orlando area. Your time is valuable to GPA/GO if you can share some to help – Won't you?

Also GPA/GO can not commit to events without the help and support of volunteers. Be that person and give 2, 3, 4 hours or more to be at or coordinate an event to raise awareness and help a Greyhound find a permanent loving home.

Contact Alma at nandas@bellsouth.net

Greyhound Pets of America—Greater Orlando

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