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CAT Gear

Shirts, caps, vests, sweatshirts, jackets, anoraks and parkas with CAT logos and names custom embroidered are available to order at columbiaagility.org.

News and Views from the President

Marilyn Watson

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What is the CAT Board Doing? The Board has a set agenda at the beginning of their year consisting of reviewing the policies and updating them. Sounds easy, doesn't it? We have nine policies to review and several needed to be updated. It is a process of getting the needed information, every Board member's opinion, making the decision and writing the final policy statement before we can vote. There are also budget decisions and numerous other issues to address. The good news is your Board is dedicated and determined to help make your club work for you effectively.

The Board needed to address the equipment rental policy rental cost to reflect the value in our electric timers. The timers constitute the most expensive pieces of our equipment. The club's mission is to support and advance

the sport of dog agility so the Board decided that we would continue to rent the timers but with an increase in rental cost and the provision that a responsible party be trained on the use and care of the timers.

So what are the next issues in which we need member input? We would like your input on two specific issues.

1. Where should our general meetings be held? Do we meet north, south, east, and west? Do we need to have food available? Should we pay for a room?

2. What do you think about the NW Cup and Columbia Cup awards? Many dollars were and are spent on trophy awards that go to a few people. This year the awards for the Steeplechase drew a crowd but few stayed for the Cup Awards. Perhaps it is time for fewer awards that go to a few people and an upgrade in the "Q" ribbons, title ribbons, NATCH ribbons, MAD ribbons, and ADCH ribbons.

Please come to the next general meeting on May 21st and/or email your opinions and ideas to the web site or a Board member.

The objectives of the Columbia Agility Team:

- A. Support the sport of dog agility.
- B. Educate the members and the public about the sport of dog agility.
- C. Conduct training classes and informal and formal events associated with dog agility.
- D. Protect and advance the interests of dog agility by encouraging sportsmanlike competition and responsible dog ownership.

Board of Directors

President

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Karla Forte
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Secretary

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Training Director

Barb Stone
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Members at Large

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Membership

Membership Coordinator

Cheryl Huffman
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Membership & Mailing Lists

Tanya Sacks
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Library

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Seminar Committee

Heather Christensen (Chair)

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Carol Hibbard

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Nicki Illias

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Janice Tsuchida

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Financial Committee

Tanya Sacks (Chair)

Judy Bluett

Karla Forte

Bobbie Lyons

2006 CAT Trial Chairs

February NADAC

Barb Persson

April USDAA NW Cup

Jim Hibbard & Cheryl Huffman

June USDAA

Dick Watson & Barb Persson

August CPE

Bonnie Johnson

September NADAC Columbia Cup

Traci Bruchock

October USDAA Black Cat

Barb White

2007 CAT Trial Chairs

Volunteers sought!

CAT Webmaster

Dick Watson

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CATalyst Editor

Matt Sachs

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Calendar

CAT Board Meetings (7 PM)

May 10, Marilyn Watson's home

Jun 14, Bridgeport Village Inn

CAT General Meetings (7 PM, earlier for dinner)

May 21, Delta Park Elmer's [Note changed date]

Jul 16, Buster's, Tigard

CAT Agility Trials

Jun 9-11, CAT USDAA Trial, Regional Grand Prix, Steeplechase, and Dog Agility Masters Team Tournament (and corresponding Performance events), Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR

Sep 9-10, Columbia Agility Team NADAC Trial and Columbia Cup, Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver (Ridgefield) WA

Oct 14-15, CAT USDAA Agility Trial and Black CAT Costume Fun Run, Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver (Ridgefield) WA

CAT Fun Matches

Forest Grove Barn. 9:00AM - Noon -- Agility Open;
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM -- Agility Games. \$3.00/Run,
2 runs for \$5. Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4

Other Trials

Internet calendars include:

<http://www.peak.org/~helix/TDAA/TrialsNW2006.htm>

<http://www.cleanrun.com/agilityinfo/events/>

Columbia Agility Team

March 14, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

Berklee Robins' home

Approved

In attendance: Marilyn Watson, Dwight Cash, Karla Forte, DeAnne White, Barb Persson, Barb Stone, Karen McAllister, Judy Bluett, Berklee Robins

A. President: Marilyn called the meeting to order

B. Reviewed and approved the minutes from the last meeting w/ amendments thus: *Let the February minutes show that Karla Forte voted no on the issue of the CPE trial at the Forest Grove barn due to the fact that the barn is too small to meet the standards of CPE.*

C. Secretary: New members voted in. Welcome to CAT: Kathy Schell, Monica & Jim Maddalone, Erica Heider, Jackie Okeefe-Nevin, Tim Nevin

D. Treasurer: Karla reported the balance in the West Coast Bank and in the Columbia Funds account. She handed out a February Profit and Loss report. The report was approved.

E. Training Director: Classes are currently finishing up for this term. April 2 is the beginning of the next classes and they are currently open for enrollment.

F. Oversee Committee: No report. Possible additions to this committee's responsibilities will be discussed at a future meeting.

G. February NADAC trial: Trial Chair, Barb Persson, reported that there was 1 dog aggression incident at the February trial. A report has been filed and the issue is considered closed.

H. Unfinished Business:

1. Member Benefits

a. CAT Bucks – guidelines for usage: Reviewed proposed policy. Dwight will present a revised policy for approval and Barb P. will design coupons for approval at the next board meeting.

b. Travel to nationals' reimbursement: CAT will reimburse 1 National Trial for venues that CAT supports, OR 1 Judging Seminar - w/ a maximum - of \$100.00 per member per year. Motion approved w/ 2 no votes. To be reviewed December 2006.

2. Credit Card Policy: Approved as amended.

3. CPE National request for a free trial donation: Request Denied.

4. CAT gear request: Orders will be placed 2 times per year. -. The dates of the orders will be advertised to CAT members. Approved.

5. Equipment Request: 2 first aid kits @ \$30.00 and 2 CPR masks at \$15.00 approved and encouraged to be made readily available in our trailers.

6. January Trial: The January 2007 trial will be a USDAA trial. Approved.

I. New Business:

1. CAT Decals: Motion: Approve printing of CAT window decals. Passed

2. Proposed USDAA 4/06 trial budget: Motion to approve. Passed.

3. Schedule future meetings: 4/18 Board Meeting at Bridgeport, 5/10 Board Meeting location TBA, 5/14

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General Meeting location TBA

The On Site Emergency Policy and Trial Coupon Award Policy will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DeAnne White

Columbia Agility Team

March 19, 2006 General Meeting Minutes

Time 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Buster's in Tigard

Subject to Approval

Board Members In attendance: Marilyn Watson, Dwight Cash, DeAnne White, Barb Persson, Barb Stone, Karen McAllister, Judy Bluett, Berklee Robins

A. President: Marilyn called the meeting to order. Guests were introduced & welcomed.

B. Report from the Secretary: Minutes from the November 13, 2005 meeting were read and approved. Correspondence from the ASCA representative Sheri Butler was read.

C. Report from the Treasurer: In Karla's absence, Judy Bluett read the balances in CATs accounts.

D. Report from the Training Director, Barb Stone: The spring classes will be beginning April 2. She encouraged all persons interested to sign up now. Also announced that if anyone is interested in becoming an instructor to contact her.

E. Report from the Trial Oversight Committee, Barbara Persson: Announced that the January 2007 trial will be a USDAA. A trial chair is needed. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact Barbara Persson.

G. Report from the Seminar Committee, Heather Christensen: In Heather's absence, Carol Hibbard requested that people visit the CAT website (www.columbiaagility.org) to complete the seminar survey. Hard copies were made available for those without computer access.

H. Library Manager, Tara Choate: She is placing a library order and any requests for items should be sent to her as soon as possible.

I. Trial Chair Report: The February NADAC

trial was a success. One dog aggression issue arose that has been handled and closed. The April and June trial chairs reported that everything is on schedule. Cheryl Huffman requested that people send their entries in for the April trial quickly after the opening date as it is easier for the Trial Secretary to have entries early rather than at the last minute.

J. Unfinished Business: None

K. New Business:

1. Member Benefits

a. Travel to nationals' reimbursement: In an effort to equitably use CAT funds, CAT will reimburse 1 National Trial for venues that CAT supports (member must qualify to attend), OR 1 Judging Seminar - w/ a maximum - of \$100.00 per member per year. Discussed and agreed upon.

b. CAT Bucks – guidelines for usage: Discussion on how CAT Bucks will be issued – workers at trials would receive \$2.50 CAT Bucks for each class worked. Discussion on how CAT Bucks could be redeemed – can be used for food, trial entries, seminars but not CAT gear. It was requested that the board address the possibility of allowing CAT Bucks to be turned in and used for Nationals.

2. Matt Sachs discussed the CATalyst and requested input from the membership for content.

3. It was announced that the John Rogerson seminar is May 1-2 and that information could be found on dogdaysnw.com.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DeAnne White

Columbia Agility Team

April 18, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

Village Inn, Bridgeport, Tualatin

Subject to Approval

In attendance: Marilyn Watson, Dwight Cash, Karla Forte, DeAnne White, Barb Persson, Karen McAllister, Judy Bluett, Berklee Robins

A. President: Marilyn called the meeting to order

B. Minutes were read and approved by a vote of 7-0

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C. Secretary: New members voted in 7-0. Welcome to CAT: Tom Beane, Jana Carraway & Jason Gretton, Gary Simpson, Barb, Heather, Ryan & John O'Donnell, Robin & Roger Mills, Diane Gould. The following member reinstatements were held for confirmation of all requirements met: Sue Severson, Mr. Edward Smith & Mrs. Brittan Winthrop. To be reviewed at next meeting.

D. Treasurer: Karla reported the balance in the West Coast Bank and in the Columbia Funds account. She handed out a March Profit and Loss report. The balance of the NADAC January trial was \$2,382.. The reports were approved 7-0. Karla will research a Junior Handler fund balance of \$500.

E. Training Director: Marilyn read the report submitted by the Training Director. Spring sessions are underway and Barb Stone will be meeting w/ instructors to better standardize our training. Discussed a change in the rates for classes. The report was approved 7-0. The changes in rates will be discussed at the next board meeting when the training director will be present.

F. Oversee Committee: The committee is recommending that nice jump bars be purchased for those used as awards and also that special ribbons be purchased for special achievement. Barb P will get costs to be reviewed at the next board meeting. The following trial schedule was discussed and approved 7-0: January-USDA (NW Cup), February-NADAC, April/May-NADAC, June-USDA (Regional), September-NADAC, October-USDA (Black Cat).

G. Unfinished Business:

1. CAT Bucks – guidelines for usage: Dwight presented a Cat Bucks Redemption Policy. Approved with minor changes 7-0. To be posted to the website.

2. Logo Decal Purchase: in process

3. Equipment Rental Policy: Discussed the current equipment rental requests by the German Shepherd Dog Club & ASCA. These requests were made at the listed rates. There was discussion that there was a policy in effect with different rates but they had not been posted. DeAnne motioned that the requests would be honored at the lower, listed rates. Berklee amended the motion to include a provision that there be a CAT member trained on the usage and care of the timer equipment present at the trials where the equipment was to be used. 5 approved, 1 opposed (Dwight), 1 abstain (Barb

P). Motion approved. Dwight will write an Equipment Rental Policy to be reviewed at the next board meeting.

4. Equipment Request: Request for Defibrillator (AED) for \$2000 was declined. Motion to decline approved 7-0.

H. New Business:

1. Membership late renewal date: Requested that the renewal date be changed from April 1 to January 31. This would require a change to the CAT by-laws. Tanya Sachs will be working on this issue and present her findings to the board.

2. Approval of expenditures: All club expenditures over \$100 need to be approved by the board. . So moved & approved 7-0.

3. Wireless Units for Speaker System: Berklee moved to purchase at \$195 per ring. Approved 7-0.

4. Announced that the Hazel Dell Dog Park is requesting a demo. This will be given to Barb Stone for follow-up.

5. Schedule future meetings: 5/10 Board Meeting at Marilyn's home, 5/14 General Meeting location TBA [changed to 5/21, ed.], 6/14 Board Meeting at Bridgeport Village Inn, 7/16 General Meeting at Buster's in Tigard.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DeAnne White

Beware of Rat Bait!

Paige Pierce, DVM

beamer@ccwebster.net

I just wanted to share a recent experience, to remind everyone of the potential of rat bait exposure at properties where we train and trial. I had my puppy out for exercise at a recent trial at Gray's Harbor Fairgrounds, in Elma, WA. She stuck her muzzle into a small cut-out area at the base of an outbuilding. It didn't worry me initially (she's forever sniffing at something), but the area held her attention for longer than most things do, which is when my brain finally kicked into gear thinking about rodent-sized holes and rat bait. Sure enough, when I opened her mouth, I could see the typical blue-green dye on her tongue. Fortunately, I was able to get her to vomit right away (with hydrogen peroxide), and get

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her started on a vitamin K prescription, so she'll be fine. Now it feels like an oversight on my part, that I hadn't previously thought about the possibility of the dogs being exposed to rat poison at fairgrounds and barns.

When I talked with the fairgrounds staff (who were very helpful and apologetic), they explained that their policy was never to put the bait in area where it could be accessible, unless it was in enclosed plastic rat traps (that prevent exposure to other animals and humans). The bait my dog ate, while not in plain sight, was very accessible. So, even where stated policies would seem to keep the dogs safe, we have to be aware that someone might not be following those policies.

The most common type of rat poison looks like grain that has blue-green dye added, is flavored with peanut butter, and is an anti-coagulant. It causes bleeding that can be anywhere in the body, and usually is not obvious until the dog is coughing (bleeding in the lungs), having bloody stools, or is weak from internal blood loss. The first symptoms might not be until a week or two after the dog eats the rat bait. At this point, aggressive veterinary care is needed.

If you know or suspect that your dog has just eaten rat poison, an immediate trip to the vet is warranted for "decontamination." Ideally, the dog is made to vomit, and then given activated charcoal, so as little as possible of the toxin is actually absorbed. This step should occur within an hour of eating the rat bait. For this and any other emergency, it's a good idea to know where the veterinary emergency clinics are near home, your practice sites, and trial sites (clinics are often listed in the premium; also, there are often vets at trials running their own dogs). Vitamin K therapy is started, to replace what the anti-coagulant blocks, allowing normal clotting to occur. Knowing exactly which type of poison has been ingested will determine how long the vitamin K will be given (so always try to get the active ingredient from the packaging). After one to three weeks of giving oral vitamin K, a clotting profile is checked, to ensure that the dog's body is once again able to make all the factors needed for normal clotting. Catching exposure to this type of toxin early is the key to preventing serious complications.

Hopefully, this "heads up" will ensure that you'll never need to act on this information!

A "Someone New" Seminar: Theresa Rector

Carol Hibbard

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All American Agility will be bringing in a "new" person to give a Seminar in October of this year. We are bringing Theresa Rector from Canada. She and her wonderful, brown Kelpie, *Infinity*, have competed in the World Cup for Canada, several times, and have again been named to *this* year's Canadian team.

Theresa has been teaching at Susan Garrett's "Say Yes" Agility School for several years and will not only will show us Susan's Foundation work, but can also show us what SHE, Theresa, has learned running a High-drive, long-striding dog like *Infinity*. I went to a seminar she gave last year in Carson City, had fun and learned lots! I also found out that people *really* enjoyed her seminar, and she was a happy, fun-loving and VERY helpful instructor.

According to the Seminar Survey that was sent out this Spring, many of you wanted to try a "new" presenter, and Theresa certainly fits the bill. At the seminar I attended, she was able to: motivate the "less than High-drive" dogs, point out problems you might not have been aware of, and show you how to handle a dog that is almost always IN FRONT of you! There was something for everyone!

Right now, it appears that she'll be here the weekend of October 28-29, and perhaps one other day. This is just a "heads-up" so you can save time for her around these dates. The dates will be up on the web-site as soon as they are "set in concrete"!

CAT Library News

Tara Choate

agilityteam@juno.com

The Columbia Agility Library is going strong, with new purchases every couple of months and more planned soon.

Recent purchases:

Books: *Performance Dog Nutrition*; *Canine Body Language - A Photographic Guide*; *Right On Target*; *Shaping Success*

DVDs: *4 on the Floor*; *Consistent Contacts*; *Dogsteps*; *Stretching the Performance Dog*; *Walking the Course*

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Audio CDs: *Freedom Flight; What Every Dog Agility Competitor Should Know First About the Mental Game; With Winning In Mind*

The CAT library buying policy is: 1) buy at least 1 of each book on Clean Run, 2) buy at least 2 of each video/DVD on Clean Run, 3) buy at least two of each available "national" or "international" video/DVD, 4) maintain two subscriptions to Clean Run Magazine, 5) maintain a subscription to Front and Finish, 6) buy each edition of Agility in Motion video magazine, 7) buy books on dogs as requested by members or as are deemed useful to the sport of agility.

Future purchases include: *The Puppy Puzzle; Clean Run Exercise Sourcebook Vol. 2; Silent Witness; Control at a Distance (DVD)*

To request an item be purchased, contact Tara Choate at agilityteam@juno.com.

To check out or return items, attend a CAT general meeting or a CAT agility trial at which the library is available, or come to Pawsitivley Clean (3962 D SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, OR 97214; open 7 days a week).

For a fairly complete list of items, go to the CAT website. We maintain books on agility, as well as sports psychology, nutrition, structure, obedience, clicker training, trick training, rally, general behavior, and puppy behavior/training.

CAT Seminar Survey Results

The numerical results of the CAT seminar survey are available at the CAT website. There were 50 respondents. Specific comments concerning seminars include:

- I would prefer one day seminars as I find two or more days overwhelming. There is just too much information to absorb. Even though I have a ADCH/NATCH dog, it has been over six years since I started a young dog. One-day seminars would be a great way of reviewing and seeing what is new in training. I also think that one day is about all a young dog/novice handler can handle.
- I would like to see more "behavior" seminars on things like drive and focus. Many of us feel confident on our dogs "ability" to do weaves, contacts, good jumping, but need more advice on getting our dogs to work for us... or to focus... or to work his hardest with glee, or drive.
- It would be nice to get folks that haven't been here lately. We tend to get the same people over and over, which is good, but after you have been a few times, it doesn't appeal any

longer. Also, I would not want to have any local trainers. We need to use our effort in getting trainers from other areas. I take classes with the local trainers that I would like to take classes with, I want other people's opinions and suggestions and ideas.

- I would like to see some presenters who truly are exceptional at handling distance and speed. Maybe some club members who have done well (i.e., at Championships/Nationals) would be willing to put on some one-day workshops?
- Most "top handlers" fees are too high for the average agility person; most junior handlers and many new novice handlers cannot afford the fees. Also, one can pay a lot of money for one or two days and really not get much individual attention from the presenter and end up feeling like one should have simply audited.
- I just attended an excellent seminar on "Your Athletic Dog" by Suzanne Clothier. It might be fun to have her come and do a working seminar to help us evaluate our dogs specific to agility.
- One of the club's responsibilities is to further dog agility by teaching. We should not leave it open to members have their own commercial agility venture to do it for us. We aren't in competition with them as we usually rent their facilities. We need more views on the subject on agility rather than constantly get fed the same guest instructors that regional people keep bringing in.
- I'd also be interested in seminars on canine health related issues, structure, stretching, massage, etc or seminars targeted to specific areas like jumping, contacts, distance, how to start training a puppy, etc. (similar to All American Agility's Jim Basic Distance seminars and Stacy [Peardot]'s High Drive seminars). These may have less overall attendance but can be very helpful for those that need them.
- I am mostly available on weekends but have taken one seminar during the week. I would like to see a rounded seminar on "jumping" that extends to show several different methods of teaching jumping. I know we have had many seminars about jumping but could someone from our area, sum up the different methodologies and give a seminar explaining several?
- I really believe that seminars are important, but the cost of attending seminars is very cost-prohibitive to many members. Can we not try, at the very least, to have auditing free to members or at a \$10-\$15 dollar a day charge? Thanks!
- I [was asked by a trainer at the Power Paws Camp], "Why do you run your sheltie like a border collie?" This made me

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realize we mostly have only big dog trainers here in Portland, or come for seminars. Maybe some other people are interested in small/medium dog stuff, but I doubt it, the attitude is "only big dogs count."

- ✦ When bringing in the expensive presenters, I would like to see CAT significantly subsidize both working and auditing fees for CAT members. The way it's going now, only the wealthy can afford to access good seminars.
- ✦ Would really like to see lower costs for attendance for CAT members and higher ones for people coming from outside the club
- ✦ I am interested on getting training dogs who are very high-energy, high-drive... in other words, I need a "calming" effect in the ring. The main problem is the stay at the start.
- ✦ Susan Perry presented the very best seminar I have attended She definitely should be on the list.
- ✦ It would also be nice to have seminars on the mental side of agility (*i.e.*, thinking like a winner, visualizing success, etc.). Those of us new to the sport can get a bit overwhelmed and sometimes downright frustrated with transitioning from practice to trialing.
- ✦ Prefer audit fee closer to \$25 than \$50...would be much less inclined to pay \$50 for a one day audit.
- ✦ I'd like to see some inexpensive one-day weekend seminars. My dog jumps at Elite level but has some issues that would probably benefit from some novice or intermediate refreshers.

CAT Bucks Redemption Policy

Approved April 18, 2006

Columbia Agility Team (CAT) policy for issuing and redeeming CAT Bucks:

1. The following guidelines will be reviewed and approved during the Board of Director's March meeting, each year. Any changes will be made and approved at that meeting.
2. No monetary change may be given when using a CAT Buck coupon.
3. CAT Bucks may be redeemed towards a lunch meal or Raffle at a CAT Agility Trial, a CAT sponsored Agility Trial entry, a CAT sponsored Agility Seminar or CAT Barn Time. Unless authorized by the Board of Directors, the CAT Treasurer is the only person authorized to print CAT Bucks.
4. CAT Bucks are good for up to four years after the date of printing and CAT Bucks over \$2.50 must be signed by issuer.
5. CAT reserves the right to declare CAT Bucks non-redeemable at any time.
6. A Board approved form will be used for CAT Bucks.

Matt Sachs - Columbia Agility Team
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