



January, 2010

MoFed Files Lawsuit Against HSUS Ballot Initiative

The HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) filed a ballot measure titled "Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act" against dog breeders to be presented on the November 2010 ballot for a vote of the people of the state of Missouri. It applies to breeders with 10 or more intact female dogs, limits the number of breeding female dogs to 50 per kennel, limits breeding to no more than twice in any eighteen-month period, requires daily exercise, veterinary care for any injury or illness, and requires controlled temperatures not to exceed 85 degrees or fall below 45 degrees. Facility and pen size requirements far exceed that which legal, licensed breeders currently must have to be in compliance with state and federal laws, and many of the requirements are virtually cost prohibitive when allowing only 50 breeding dogs maximum for generating income.

The Missouri Federation of Animal Owners (MoFed) filed a lawsuit Tuesday, January 5, 2010, against the Secretary of State and State Auditor on behalf of all breeders in the state of Missouri. MoFed hired the Stinson Law Firm of St. Louis to represent them before the Circuit Court of Cole County (Jefferson City). MoFed President Karen Strange is named as the Plaintiff in the challenge to the ballot measure.

Among the counts the law firm has filed against the ballot measure is that the summary statements prepared by Secretary Carnahan are insufficient and unfair. The basis for this claim is that the summary statement does not fairly and without prejudice summarize the purpose of the measure. Specifically, the suit alleges that the use of the term "puppy mill" or "puppy mill cruelty" is inherently prejudicial and misleading. "Puppy mill" is a derogatory term for dog breeders and is likely to incite prejudice in favor of the measure. While these terms appear in the Initiative Petitions, creative drafting on the part of the proponents does not alleviate Defendant Carnahan of her duty to write a fair and impartial summary statement.

Public beliefs—right or wrong—have big implications

Factual, targeted messages needed to combat misconceptions

JAVMA January 15, 2010. Finding common ground with stakeholders, providing dispassionate and factual information, and taking appropriate action is the way to address animal welfare conversations, according to speakers at the Joint International Educational Symposium on Animal Welfare. The event was hosted by the AVMA and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Grahame J. Coleman, PhD, professor at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, and deputy director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre, said attitudes impact behavior.

In the case of animal welfare, if people believe caged hens live poorly, that belief could influence them to change their buying habits or lobby for regulations on housing, which could result in changes in management practices on farms.

Often the public has limited knowledge of animal use procedures and practices, Dr. Coleman said, and the distinction between knowledge and beliefs is unclear to them. In fact, people generally don't want to know how that steak got onto their plate in the first place, he said.

According to Dr. Coleman, there is routinely some cognitive dissonance between the uses of animals—such as eating meat—on the one hand and the practices associated with the management of those animals—such as—farm housing and husbandry—on the other.

"People adapt their attitudes to specific contexts and may actively avoid learning about specific animal procedures and uses to minimize cognitive conflict," Dr. Coleman said.

This reinforces the need for providing the public with factual information about the welfare of animals in all contexts, he said. If the public is not informed, community values may lead to behavior that is detrimental to animal welfare. He gave the example of people caring for feral cats and regarding the situation as universally good for the animal.

Full story: <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jan10/100115d.asp>

AAFP and AAHA release Feline Life Stage Guidelines

The American Association of Feline Practitioners and the American Animal Hospital Association are releasing the new AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stage Guidelines this month.

The guidelines, which provide information about wellness care for cats, appear in the January issues of the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery and the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association.

The AVMA's 2007 U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook found that pet cats outnumber pet dogs in the United States but receive less veterinary care. Responding to these statistics, a coalition of organizations—including the AAFP, AAHA, and AVMA—formed the CATalyst Council in 2008 to improve the well-being of cats. The council identified a need for the Feline Life Stage Guidelines.

The new guidelines provide health care recommendations specific to the various life stages of feline patients and emphasize the idea of educating cat owners about behavioral and environmental factors in a healthy feline lifestyle.

One deterrent to veterinary visits for cats can be concerns about the stresses on cats and their owners. The guidelines offer practical strategies that veterinary practices can integrate into daily routines to help alleviate common stressors and work more successfully with anxious cats.

Boehringer Ingelheim, Merial, Pfizer Animal Health, and IDEXX Laboratories sponsored development of the guidelines.

The Feline Life State Guidelines are available through the AAFP Web site at www.catvets.com and the AAHA Web site at www.aahanet.org.

Canine Compulsive Disorder Gene Identified

Shares Family With Recently Targeted Gene For Autism

Article Date: 08 Jan 2010 Tom Keppeler - Tufts University, Health Sciences

A canine chromosome 7 locus that confers a high risk of compulsive disorder susceptibility has been identified through a collaboration between the Behavior Service at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, the Program in Medical Genetics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Broad Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The findings are published in the January 2010 edition of *Molecular Psychiatry*.

Obsessive compulsive disorder is characterized by time consuming, repetitive behaviors and affects about 2 percent of humans, while the equally distressing canine equivalent, canine compulsive disorder, or CCD, seems to target certain dog breeds, especially Dobermans and Bull Terriers. For over a decade, behaviorists Drs. Dodman and Moon-Fanelli, at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine collected blood samples from carefully characterized Doberman patients exhibiting flank- and/or blanket-sucking compulsive behaviors, as well as healthy, unaffected Doberman. In 2001, Edward Ginns, PhD, MD, head of the Program in Medical Genetics at UMass Medical School, joined the effort, enabling genetic studies that culminated in the genome wide association study that began in 2007 using the canine Affymetrix genotyping array at the Broad Institute.

The chromosome 7 location most significantly associated with CCD is located within the neural cadherin-2 gene, CDH2. CDH2 is widely expressed, mediating synaptic activity-calcium flux related neuronal adhesion. Dogs showing multiple compulsive behaviors had a higher frequency of the "risk" associated DNA sequence than dogs with a less severe phenotype (60 and 43%, respectively, compared with 22% in unaffected dogs). This highly significant association of CCD with the CDH2 gene region on chromosome 7 is the first genetic locus identified for any animal compulsive disorder, and raises the intriguing possibility that CDH2 and other neuronal adhesion proteins are involved in human compulsive behaviors, including those observed in autism spectrum disorder. The neural cadherin-2 gene, CDH2, is an especially attractive candidate disease gene as it is involved in mediating presynaptic to postsynaptic neuronal junction adhesion, neuronal axon outgrowth and guidance in the central nervous system during development when critical brain nerve networks are established.

"The CDH2 gene is expressed in the hippocampus, a brain region suspected to be involved in OCD. In addition, this gene oversees structures and processes that are possibly instrumental in propagating compulsive behaviors - for example, the formation and proper functioning of glutamate receptors," said Dr. Nicholas Dodman, professor of clinical sciences at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and the study's lead author.

"The occurrence of repetitive behaviors and similarities in response to drug treatments in both canine CCD and human OCD suggest that common pathways are involved" said Dr. Ginns, professor of Clinical Pathology, Neurology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Neuroscience at UMass Medical School. Dr. Ginns is hopeful that "our finding will lead to a better understanding of the biology of compulsive disorder and facilitate development of genetic tests, enabling earlier interventions and even treatment or prevention of compulsive disorders in at-risk canines and humans." "This lead is so intriguing that we look forward to working with Dr. Dodman's group to extend our current findings to other populations." added Dr. Marzena Galdzicka, assistant professor of Clinical Pathology at UMass Medical School. Collaborations are already in progress with Dr. Dennis Murphy's group at the National Institute of Mental Health to determine the extent to which CDH2 confers risk for human OCD and autism spectrum disorders.

Source: *Medical News Today* <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/175353.php>

Top Human Medications Poisonous to Pets Revealed

The Pet Poison Helpline recently revealed the top 10 human medications that cause pet poisonings. Tens of thousands of phone calls are fielded each year on human prescription drugs, rat poisons and environmental and home toxins, according to Justine A. Lee, D.V.M., American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care diplomate and associate director of veterinary services at the helpline.

Nearly half the calls involve over-the-counter and prescription medications for humans. As far as animal poisonings go, “they are unfortunately very, very common,” Lee said.

the top 10 human medications most frequently ingested by pets.

- **NSAIDs** (e.g. Advil, Aleve and Motrin) Common household medications called non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) top the list. The names include ibuprofen (e.g., Advil and some types of Motrin) and naproxen (Aleve).
- **Acetaminophen** (e.g. Tylenol) Even though this drug is safe for humans, this is not true for pets — especially cats. One regular strength tablet of acetaminophen may cause damage to a cat’s red blood cells.
- **Antidepressants** (e.g. Effexor, Cymbalta, Prozac, Lexapro) While occasionally used in pets, overdoses can lead to serious neurological problems such as sedation, incoordination, tremors and seizures. Pets, especially cats, seem to enjoy the taste of Effexor and often eat the entire pill. One pill can cause serious poisoning.
- **ADD/ADHD medications** (e.g. Concerta, Adderall, Ritalin) Minimal ingestions of these medications by pets can cause life-threatening tremors, seizures, elevated body temperatures and heart problems.
- **Benzodiazepines and sleep aids** (e.g. Xanax, Klonopin, Ambien, Lunesta) About half of the dogs who ingest sleep aids become agitated instead of sedate. In addition, these drugs may cause severe lethargy, incoordination and slowed breathing in pets.
- **Birth control** (e.g. estrogen, estradiol, progesterone) Large ingestions of estrogen and estradiol can cause bone marrow suppression, particularly in birds. Additionally, female pets that are intact are at an increased risk of side effects from estrogen poisoning.
- **ACE inhibitors** (e.g. Zestril, Altace) Pets ingesting small amounts of this medication can potentially be monitored at home, unless they have kidney failure or heart disease.
- **Beta-blockers** (e.g. Tenormin, Toprol, Coreg) Small ingestions of these drugs may cause serious poisoning in pets. Overdoses can cause life-threatening decreases in blood pressure and a slow heart rate.
- **Thyroid hormones** (e.g. Armour desiccated thyroid, Synthroid) Large acute overdoses in cats and dogs can cause muscle tremors, nervousness, panting, a rapid heart rate and aggression.
- **Cholesterol-lowering agents** (e.g. Lipitor, Zocor, Crestor) Most “statin” ingestions only cause mild vomiting or diarrhea. Serious side effects from these drugs come with long-term use.

Source: the Dog Channel

Canine Lymphoma

Ashley Mitek - Information Specialist
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Office of Public Engagement

Approximately 5 percent of all human cancers in the United States are diagnosed as lymphoma according to the National Cancer Institute. Unfortunately, it is much more common in our canine companions. Nearly 20 percent of all reported malignant tumors in dogs are lymphoma. The disease, which starts in the lymphocytes (white blood cells) of the immune system, can go on to invade the lymph nodes as well as almost any other part of the body.

Dr. Laura Garrett is a veterinary oncologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. She says, "lymphoma usually affects middle-aged to older dogs. But it is also one of the few cancers that commonly affects young dogs as well."

In contrast to the feline forms of lymphoma, there is no known cause of the cancer in dogs. However, some breeds seem to be predisposed, such as: golden retrievers, Scottish terriers, mastiffs, and rottweilers. The disease also presents differently in dogs. While cats with lymphoma are typically very ill by the time they see a veterinarian, dogs with lymphoma usually do not feel sick when they are diagnosed.

"Dog owners usually complain of lumps under the jaw," explains Dr. Garrett, or a veterinarian may notice them on a routine physical exam. The "lumps" that can be felt are enlarged lymph nodes. As lymphoma spreads, it has the ability to affect lymph nodes all over the body, as well as other organs. This type of lymphoma, called "multicentric," reflects the fact that it is found in multiple places. It is the most common form of the disease in dogs.

Because lymphoma is a cancer that tends to be very widespread throughout an animal's body, there is only one real choice of therapy that has the potential to make the cancer go into remission: chemotherapy.

"Lymphoma is not a surgical disease," notes Dr. Garrett. The only way oncologists can attempt to slow down its progression is to try and poison the fastest growing cells in the dog's body (usually the tumor cells) with chemotherapy.

Thankfully, dogs with the multicentric form of lymphoma have a good to excellent chance of responding well to treatment. That said, there are other forms of the disease, such as the gastro-intestinal variety, that do not respond very well to therapy, so it is important to know what kind of lymphoma you are dealing with.

In general, dogs with the multicentric form of lymphoma will live approximately one year after being diagnosed if they have completed chemotherapy. If owners choose not to treat, dogs can expect to live around four to six weeks after being diagnosed.

It is important to note that each patient with lymphoma is different, and the median survival time is simply that--an average that can be used to help inform owners. Depending on certain prognostic factors, patients may be more likely to do better or worse. For example, a dog that is not feeling well at the time of lymphoma diagnosis is a very strong negative prognostic indicator. Meaning, the animal is much worse off than a dog that feels well at the time of diagnosis.

For information regarding lymphoma, contact your local veterinarian. A list of board certified veterinary oncologists in your state can be found by visiting Veterinary Cancer Society Web site:
<http://www.vetcancersociety.org/>.

Fundraising Deception at HSUS



HSUS launched an ambitious campaign to raise \$1 million online by December 31st which stated, “Your gift of \$20.10 a month for 2010—just 66 cents a day—can help thousands of animals like Faye not just survive, but thrive in the New Year.” HSUS claimed they helped rescue Faye during a Missouri fighting dog raid and according to HSUS John Goodwin, “Faye” is now safe, in a loving home, recovering thanks to HSUS.”

The first to break the story that this was not true was a blogger at kcdogblog.com.

She writes, “Here’s the rub. They’re not caring for the vast majority (or any?) of the dogs that were rescued from the dog fighting ring bust from this summer... It appears as if HSUS is trying to use the publicity from the Time Magazine article which referred to [one of the groups involved] as “the Humane Society” to raise money for dogs that aren’t even in their care. This would not be the first time HSUS has pulled shenanigans in such a regard. Just two years ago, HSUS asked for money to care for the dogs rescued from Mike Vick’s Bad Newz Kennels—when they as an organization were lobbying to have all the dogs killed.”

The Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO) working with the USDA’s Office of the Inspector General, and other partners, coordinated the multi-location effort to safely remove, transport and shelter the seized pit bulls in Missouri and Illinois. The HSMO web site features a photo of “Fay” and information about the rescue. HSMO acknowledges that HSUS volunteers worked in the emergency shelter but did not provide support in rehabilitating and housing the animals after the rescue. HSMO states that the dogs have been cared for by local organizations since being rescued.

Faye, along with approximately 35 other rescued pit bulls, is being cared for by Mutts-n-Stuff, a small rescue group in the St. Louis area. The woman fostering Faye wrote, “I am rather sad that HSUS has chosen to use Fay (not Faye) in their fund drive. **Fay has never received a dime from HSUS.** How do I know? Because I am the one that is fostering Fay. Fay is currently going through expensive surgeries to recreate medically need lips so her teeth do not fall out, her jaw bone stops deteriorating, and she can live a normal life. HSUS never contacted us regarding Fay. In the video John states she is in a loving home...really...thanks for the compliment but Fay is **LOOKING** for her forever home.” “If you really want to help Fay, please go to our website, <http://www.muttsandstuff.com> and click on the donate now button. If you want to help the other 35 dogs we took with their own health issues....please donate. We are a small group that can use the help.”

Gina Spadafori summed it up perfectly on her Pet Connection blog: “Having thrown themselves into this situation, the HSUS should use the money it **already has** to pick up every penny of the cost of Fay’s medical and mental rehabilitation. That’s right, **every damn penny**. And every penny of the cost of the other dogs seized with her. Going forward, HSUS leadership — hello Mr. Pacelle — needs to shake up the fund-raising staff, and **stop misleading people**. Until both of those things happen — and happen publicly, with a statement of wrong-doing and a pledge to animal-lovers going forward, I would encourage animal-lovers to give to the HSUS not one thin dime. Which is exactly the amount they have given to help Fay, their fund-raising poster dog.”

In response to the mounting criticism, HSUS finally made a public announcement that they would pick up the tab for Fay's surgeries.

Fay was horribly disfigured from her days as a fighting dog. She had been undergoing surgeries to correct her mouth where much of her lips had been missing. This had presented a myriad of health issues for her. Fay underwent her second surgery and all went very well. Unfortunately after the surgery she went into cardiac arrest and died.

Maintaining Pens and Rabbit Populations is Hard Work

The two major causes of a sudden drop in rabbit population are predators and illness. Predators can be hawks, owls, weasels, mink, coyotes, fox and feral - or even domestic - cats. That's why fencing & cover are so important. Illness is often related to parasite infestations which weaken the rabbit. Many clubs put wormer in the rabbit food, and during stressful times antibiotics can be added as well. Planting nourishing vegetation as well is important, along with mowing the feed strips frequently. Rabbits like fresh shoots, that's why they show up on suburban lawns. Maintaining a cotton tail population is not easy and the beagle clubs deserve every penny of their rental fee for field trials.

At AKC Dachshund field trials the dogs are set in brace to follow the scent of the path of particular rabbits. The owners call the dogs back after the command by two judges who observe what is necessary to know the skill of each of the brace of dogs. Rabbits are rarely killed at a trial.

It takes a lot of cash and hard work to make sure that conditions optimum for rabbit population growth.

John and Jolanta Jeanneney breed and use wirehaired dachshunds for hunting and tracking wounded big game. They are also hunters, trackers, field trialers, educators, writers and self-publishers. On their excellent and informative blog, "borntotracknews.blogspot.com", Jolanta takes the reader through a day of cleaning up an 11-acre rabbit pen.

[Cleaning up the running grounds with Charlie Flexer's amazing CAT 297C](#)

Our dogs need exercise and an opportunity to use their noses all year round. To provide this we have an 11 acre running enclosure with a good number of cottontails. The big patches of staghorn sumac between the feed strips had become badly overgrown, so we hired Charlie Flexer and his CAT 297C brush clearing machine to grind up the ten foot growth and shred it down to ground level. Charlie specializes in controlling the brush and young trees in beagle club running grounds, and he was already nearby clearing areas of our local New Scotland Beagle Club.

The shredded sumac in our enclosure will quickly resprout next summer, so we asked Charlie to work over about 2/3 of the area. White pines were dropped for winter shelter. The remainder of the sumac was left standing to provide food and cover for the rabbits this winter.

Despite its size, the CAT 297C is agile and can do amazingly precise work. And it works fast. Of course this requires a highly skilled operator and Charlie is all of that. He worked one day from dawn to dusk, and accomplished what would have taken me months with hand tools.

Charlie arrived with a big Ford 550 truck and trailer carrying various attachments including a shearing tool capable of cutting 15 inch trees and a giant culti-packer designed to prepare food plots. Also on board were eight of his 20 beagles. Charlie staked these well-behaved hunting beagles out on a 50 foot chain with a drop chain for each hound. They were clean, well conditioned and clearly they loved the boss and their life riding the roads of the Northeast. ■

Dog Genes Code Dachshund's Stumpy Legs, Shar-Pei's Wrinkly Skin

By Ellen Gibson. Jan. 11 (Bloomberg) -- Dog genes that code for signature traits of pets like the furrowed skin of the Shar-Pei have been identified in a study that shows how centuries of **breeding** gave rise to 400 kinds of domestic dogs.

Researchers analyzed the genes of 275 dogs in 10 different domesticated groups to see how breeding practices have altered their **DNA**, the hereditary template in their cells. The results, reported in today's **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**, show some conspicuous physical traits, or phenotypes, such as height and coat color, can be traced to particular genes of **beagles, border collies, dachshunds, poodles**, among others.

"When you have a Chihuahua that's 9 inches tall and a Great Dane that is 7 feet tall, that can be traced back to IGF1," the gene that influences dog size, said Joshua Akey, a geneticist at the **University of Washington** in Seattle who was the paper's lead author.

Understanding how breeding leads to artificial selection of some doggy DNA can clarify the way genes give rise to appearance and behavior in other species, the researchers **said**. Such knowledge "holds considerable promise for providing unique insights into the genetic basis of heritable variation in humans," the authors wrote.

As one of the world's most-diverse mammals, dogs are "a great system for understanding how genetic variation influences how individuals in a population act differently, look different, and have different susceptibilities to disease," Akey said in a Jan. 8 telephone interview.

Distinct Breeds

Through their analyses, the researchers discovered that the most genetically distinct breeds were the German shepherd, Shar- Pei, beagle, and greyhound.

Domesticated dogs have been bred for more than 14,000 years, the report said. The strict form of selective breeding used today to turn out desired characteristics in the animals is a more recent phenomenon, according to the report.

"Most dog breeds were formed in the last 500 to 1,000 years, a relatively short time frame in terms of evolution," Akey said.

Today there are more than 400 genetically distinct breeds of domestic dog, yet "relatively little progress has been made on systematically identifying which regions of the canine genome have been influenced by selective breeding during the natural history of the dog," the study said.

To pursue this, the researchers analyzed the full set of genes, called the genome, of 10 breeds of domesticated dogs to locate the most-differentiated regions of their genes.

Wrinkling Gene

The researchers were able to zero in on one specific gene, called HAS2, which causes deep wrinkling in the skin of the **Shar-Pei**. Originally a Chinese farm dog, the breed is characterized by a sandy coat, furrowed skin, and a wide muzzle, according to the New York-based **American Kennel Club**, the nation's largest purebred dog registry. The HAS2 finding was confirmed in two follow-up analyses.

This gene is of particular interest, Akey said, because HAS2 mutations in humans can also lead to a skin condition called cutaneous mucinosis. This rare disease affects mostly young people and involves skin lesions and inflammation, according to the American Academy of Dermatology.

Previous analyses of canine genomics had linked four genes to physical traits including coat color and texture, leg length and size. The researchers in this study were able to confirm all four earlier findings, including variations in the genes IGF1 and FGF5 that account for the differences in dogs' size and limb length, respectively.

Akey and his team also identified 150 new gene locations, containing more than 1,600 genes, which have been altered by artificial selection. They plan to do further testing on these genes, he said.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=axwVOZ6O7S6I>

Morris Animal Foundation donates \$1.2M to NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary medicine researchers at North Carolina State University have received more than \$1.2 million from the Morris Animal Foundation to find new ways to improve the health of dogs, cats, horses and wildlife. The funding will go to 12 different studies being conducted by 10 College of Veterinary Medicine researchers.

Drs. Shila Nordone and Adam Birkenheuer have received \$224,000 to develop a rapid test for sepsis in dogs, information that could improve diagnosis, care and survival rates.

Dr. Marlene Hauck has received two grants related to canine cancers: one for \$141,000 to support her work on soft-tissue sarcomas and one for \$113,230 for her investigation into hypoxia, or low oxygen level, in tumors.

A grant of \$135,217 is being used to find treatment for *Tritrichomonas foetus*, an infection that forms in the colon of cats and causes inflammation and diarrhea. Drs. Jody Gookin and Katie Tolbert are examining the mechanisms that cause diarrhea and will test drugs that may prevent those mechanisms.

And Dr. John Marshall will use \$100,000 to research a new pain-relieving drug for horses suffering from colic, which can cause death. Colic can be treated by removing the injured intestine, but that is not always possible, and surgery decreases survival rates. The current drug used to treat pain from colic can inhibit intestinal healing. Marshall is examining whether a new drug will provide pain relief and allow the injured intestine to recover.

The Morris Animal Foundation is the world's largest nonprofit foundation dedicated to funding research in veterinary medicine. It supports studies in more than 50 colleges of veterinary medicine worldwide. "The mission of the Morris Animal Foundation is to fund health studies that protect, treat and cure companion animals and wildlife," says Dr. David Dorman, associate dean for research and graduate studies at NCSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Oftentimes work funded through the MAF would not be supported by other agencies. These grants help support individual research laboratories and help maintain and advance the research mission of the CVM." *Sources: NCSU / Triangle Business Journal*

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