





August 2017

Tiffany's Tale

All of the dog care volunteers received an email concerning two new dogs at the shelter. It was a heads-up message about a new special-needs dog who was deaf. The dog was nine months and half Boxer.

It was our day to care for the dogs on a Tuesday, when the shelter is closed to the public. Upon our arrival we noticed the two new dogs and spent time getting them used to us. One dog was large-boned

with a brindle coat. The other dog was smaller, with a pure white coat and ears that had small black freckles. Both dogs had pleasant dispositions and craved attention. I sat for a bit with each of the new girls, talking and petting, hugging, and giving treats. Both dogs were attentive. I was surprised that the brindle dog seemed to respond to my voice.

When our work was done, I passed out frozen rubber Kong toys, filled with wet and dry dog food to keep them occupied after we left. I then went from kennel to kennel with a last treat and a little more interaction. As I stood in front of each

kennel door I reread each information card to keep the detailed info about each dog fresh in my mind. Written on the info card for the smaller white dog, Tiffany, I was surprised to read the words, "I am deaf". As I stared into her bright crystal blue eyes she wagged her tail for me and moved in closer for another hug. You could have knocked me over with a feather. My husband returned to the dog room at this time wearing his sun hat. The new white dog, Tiffany, slowly backed up and cowered in the corner of her kennel, squatting and dribbling urine. Her reaction spoke clearly of her past. Some time in Tiffany's past someone had tried to train her. She could not hear and did not respond to what was asked of her. She had obviously suffered physical punishment for not responding to her orders. How could she if she couldn't hear? This sweet girl was starved for the affection she had never received!



That news spread quickly throughout our shelter family. Dog and cat volunteers alike took time out to make a trip to the dog room to share some love with the girl with the crystal blue eyes.

Deb Bauer, our adoption coordinator, is a trained T-Touch therapist. Deb has authored two books about training special needs dogs and has successfully trained her own deaf and blind shelties. Deb devoted much time working with Tiffany and started teaching her sign language. I still find Deb's training abilities amazing.

With time, Tiffany found her perfect forever home.

Deb shared her skills with Tiffany's new dad, giving him what he needed to unlock the barrier of deafness and allow her the ability to learn as much as any ordinary dog.

Tiffany was far from normal. She was loved by all and we celebrated her adoption with joy and a few tears. She had taught us all a lesson about her special needs and we had given her the gift of love in exchange. Happy trails, Tiffany! Keep wagging that tail!

HOW TO REACH US!

Our shelter is located in the OLD FUNKHOUSER SCHOOL BUILDING 12073 N. 1000th Rd. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 321) Effingham, IL 62401-0321

SHELTER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday Closed for cleaning Sunday Closed

Telephone: 217-536-9001 Email: 4paws@frontier.com Website: www.effingham.petfinder.com www.facebook.com/effinghamcountyhumanesociety Newsletter design donated by Amy Jo Kingery

EFFINGHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Belly Itcher Woofle Ball Tournament

Saturday, September 23, 11:00 a.m. Teutopolis K of C Hall Ball Diamond www.facebook.com/events/332603820485969/

Fall Garage Sale At The Shelter

Friday, October 6, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (half price is noon to 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, October 8, noon - 3:00 p.m. (Bag Day)
We cannot accept chemicals, computer equipment,
TV's, paint, tires or anything broken or with missing parts. Last day for drop off October, 3rd.

Pet Pictures with Santa and Open House At The Shelter Saturday, December 2, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras Gala

Friday, March 23, 2018 Effingham Knights of Columbus

WISH LIST

Looking for something to donate? The shelter is in need of the following items:

- 8' & 6' tables
- Wal-Mart gift cards
- Latex/non-latex/nitrile exam gloves (large or one-size fits-all)
- Menards gift cards
- Paper towels
- Bleach/bleach spray/bleach wipes
- Volunteers!!!
- 45-gallon trash bags
- K-Mart gift cards
- Rural King gift cards
- White kitchen bags
- SCOOPABLE cat litter
- Gel dishwasher detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Toy mice for cats
- CANNED dog food
- CANNED cat food
- CASH DONATIONS!!!



Event Coordinator

Congratulations to our former "girl Friday", who anticipates what needs done before being asked. Cameron Hennigh has the dubious honor of becoming our first Community Outreach and Event Coordinator! Cameron's organizational skills will be a huge asset when planning ahead for parades, animal visits, and our budget on a shoestring. Her enthusiasm and positive outlook have made Cameron the perfect choice. Thanks, Cameron! We all have faith that no matter how small or large the planning stages, Cameron will "Get 'er Done!"

A Home of Their Own

Every spring brings in a new crop of kittens. This year has brought us a bumper crop!

We must carefully open our restroom door before entering. This is where the rambunctious smaller kittens (8 weeks and up) go to have a play date. What fun to watch these tiny felines pounce, play, roll, jump, and climb... taking naps between sessions of play.

Socialization is a must for kittens in search of a forever home. This year we have been encouraging our volunteers and their friends to make time for play time. The extra time spent playing prepares shy or semi-feral kittens for home life.

We would like to encourage new volunteers to come in and spend time handling and playing with these cute balls of fur. The time invested in play gives these little ones a head start in the direction of a home of their own.

Garage Sale

Without our new large garage we would not be able to hold our spring and fall garage sales! Many thanks go out to the generosity of our friends in this community for all their donations made for our sale, and to our friends who attend all three days of our sales, hunting for the many wonderful bargains. Our spring sale was a huge success due to the record breaking amount of donations received.

Thanks also to our many retired core group of volunteers who put in weeks of their time to sort, clean, test batteries and plug in cords to test that everything up for sale is in good working condition. Despite the fact that this requires a lot of hard work and heavy lifting, throughout each day we enjoy the company of the friends we have grown closer to As always, thanks go out to Shirley McEvers for taking the lead and preparing a hot meal for all the team to enjoy during lunch break. Shirley accepts the challenge every time and makes order out of chaos. Where would we be without our dedicated crew or volunteers? We are truly blessed with people who enjoy working together!

The Fix-It List

Have you noticed a few changes in our old Funkhouser School building? There have been several donations earmarked for repairs, and we hope to get many of the tasks completed before the next season of cold weather.

The entrance and hallway doors were the original schoolhouse doors installed when Funkhouser School was built. We noticed daylight shining through the cracks in the doors last winter. In addition to light, the cold air was leaking through as well. Many thanks go to Builder's Supply for finding ways to keep the costs down and install first class replacements.

Work has been done to heat the building more efficiently. It is nice to see that our staff members no longer have to wear gloves and coats to do office work.

Despite our rules against dumping animals on the premesis, it has become quite an issue to find pet carriers full of kittens crammed beyond capacity with no water or food left in front of our doors with the sun mercilessly beating down on the inhabitants. Our old security system was so out of date that the recorded images were no better than a blur with no way to make out the license plate numbers of the cars or trucks used to dump the animals. Thanks to J&J Ventures for their donation of a more sophisticated system. Thanks also goes to their representative who generously gave his time to oversee the installation procedures. Young couples who enjoy privacy in our parking lot after dark should be aware that their escapades are recorded now on our cameras. It is time to find a more private parking spot!

Our outdoor play areas for our dogs have been greatly upgraded and properly fenced and gated. We hope our new security system will record the individuals who throw small unwanted dogs over the top of those six-foot high chain link fences in the play area. Rarely does this happen without injury to the animal that was tossed over like discarded trash.





Tips to Make Dog Training Successful!

My mom and I spend a lot of time doing training together. We both enjoy spending time together and learning new things. But she knows how to keep training fun for me so I like to participate and don't get bored or frustrated. Here are some tips to keep training time happy and successful for you and your dog!

- Catch your dog doing something right! My mom always tells me when I'm doing things she likes. The more she tells me what behaviors she likes, the more frequently I will do them. She is always prepared to reward me for doing things she likes. This makes it more likely that I will do those behaviors instead of other ones that she might not like.
- Enjoy your dog! My mom spends time with me outside of training sessions, too. She knows what I like and don't like and what captures my attention. Sometimes I even teach her a thing or two. We are friends and partners. This makes our training time smoother.
- Dogs do what works! If my actions lead to me getting something I enjoy, then I will keep doing those behaviors. But if my actions cause something I don't like to happen, I will stop doing those

behaviors. Mom makes sure that all the behaviors she likes to see get me something I enjoy so I will keep doing them.

- Teach your dog to pay attention to you. I pay close attention to my mom because she often gives me good things (petting, playtime, treats, and toys) when I do things she likes. Mom says if I am paying attention to her, I can't be paying attention to other distracting things. And it's easier to redirect my behavior because I will stop and pay attention to her when asked.
- Reduce stress. Dogs are like people we don't learn very well when we are stressed. If you or your dog are stressed, stop training for that day and try again another time.
- Plan ahead and set your dog up to be successful. My mom sets up the environment to cause me to make good behavior choices. She doesn't leave chicken on the table when she leaves the room – unless she wants me to eat the chicken. Or she takes me with her when she leaves the room. (I do like chicken!)
- Dogs react to your thoughts and emotions. Think positively! Instead of thinking about what you **don't** want your dog to do, create a lovely picture in your mind of what you **do** want your dog to do, and then help to make it happen.
- What you use to reward your dog must be something that your dog thinks is special! I like toys and playtime, but not every dog does. Some dogs have a favorite treat or a favorite toy. Some like to be scratched in a certain spot. Use whatever it is that your dog gets excited about! You will get better effort out of your dog.

All Around the Town

Have you noticed how often we have our dogs and cats out for activities and parades? Karen Grupe, our shelter manager, has had one major goal in her position. She takes every possible opportunity to get our animals out to meet the public.

Karen's goal is being fulfilled. Did you see our dogs at Patterson's 5k Relay? Our own volunteer, Barb Staser, organized and held her own 5k run from the Midland State Bank parking lot, near Patterson's. We had a table at Ron Mietzner's Bark for a Cure at Evergreen Hollow Park. Our dogs, despite the heat and hot roadway, attended Dieterich's 4th of July parade in comfort, riding on the Humane Society's decorated float. Dori and Jeremy Reichs invited us to the 5th Annual Volley For the Animals tournament held this year at the Midway volleyball court. Little Lambs Daycare has invited our dogs for a show and tell day. We are planning to bring kittens and dogs to the Sunshine Palooza event.

Dog therapy at local nursing homes has become popular. Pat Boggs is in charge of four different teams who take kittens and dogs to four nursing homes for monthly visits. We have discovered that the elderly residents take comfort in petting our dogs or holding one of our purring kittens in their laps. The animals trigger memories and the elderly share their stories of former pets that were special to them

If anyone is interested in having a visit from our dogs or kittens, call Karen or Deb at 217-536-9001.



The Mostly Ups and (a Few) Downs of Fostering

Volunteering at a non-profit animal rescue is a labor of love and lessons in humility. To offer love to an individual without expectation is a goal to aspire to and one we can only try to emulate from the dogs and cats that pass through our lives. My children ask me every time I bring foster kittens into the house,



Kitten bottle feeding

"how can you do this, knowing you will fall in love with them and then have to give them up?" It is a very hard question to answer, because it truly is painful to bring them into the shelter and walk away, feeling that you are betraying that trust and bond you

have built in those two to three months. Foster moms/ dads trust and know that all the dedicated volunteers will spend as much time, as they are able at the shelter, loving on your babies during their stay. You keep watch on your emails and the posts on Facebook for the happy news that they have found their forever home. This is your reward and at the Effingham County Humane Society it is almost assured that it will happen. Our staff work hard and are steadfast in achieving our mission goal to find a forever home for each and every one.

This may sound like a deterrent to anyone thinking about fostering, but the rewards you can well imagine. Who doesn't enjoy the satisfaction of finally getting a newly orphaned kitten to suck its first gulps of

formula, tucking these wee babies into soft warm beds with full bellies, or watching them learn to toddle, then walk, and finally climb, leap, and race around a space that is safe and stimulating. When you see the



Kitten going potty

announcement that "your" baby has been adopted into their forever home, you hear the little "squeeee!", in your head, knowing this one has a chance at a happy and safe life. And, if it's spring or fall, you most likely have a new litter or a single to keep you from missing them too much.

Yes, fostering has its worries, scares and sadness, but the successes, the happy dances you get to watch as the little kittens learn to play, and the silky, warm snuggles you get to share with them make it all worthwhile and important for each kitten you save. As they say, you can't save them all, but your effort is important to each little one that comes into your care. Please consider volunteering with the Effingham County Humane Society and learn to foster kittens. We also have some opportunities for fostering dogs that are on heartworm treatment and new mothers with their puppies. Come into the shelter and we will give you a tour and inform you of all the opportunities to help the many unwanted, neglected, and homeless kittens and other companion animals in our care.

Summer Reminders

Time slips by so quickly! We often lose track of our agenda and forget to keep our pets up-to-date on monthly medications.

Heartworm medications often come with stickers to mark your calendar... a handy reminder for the necessary preventative. The disease is carried by mosquitos. Once a dog is positive for heart worms, treatment is expensive and takes about 6 weeks of absolute rest to cure. Too much activity puts your dog in a vulnerable position. A clump of the dying heartworms can break free and cause a stroke or death. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Keep your companions safe by giving regular monthly treatments.

Flea and tick prescription medication will put a stop to the aggravation of your pet snapping and gnawing on his/her body to rid itself of these painful pests. Keeping your pets free of fleas will also keep your furniture and carpeting free of fleas as well. If the medication doesn't take care of the problem, your vet can suggest many other meds to remedy your pet's discomfort.

Resist the urge to have your dog ride with you while driving around on errands. Our hot and humid summers can kill a pet left in your car.

Last of all, keep those water bowls filled. The heat can dehydrate your pet more quickly than we would think. If your pet stays outdoors a lot, provide adequate shade.

Keep your furbabies safe, and enjoy a stress-free summer with your favorite four-legged friends!



Battle of the Barktenders

Saturday, July 24th, Ping's Tavern was the place to be for the annual ECHS Battle of the Barketenders. Ping's shared their bartender Sammy Kroeger, who busted her butt for us that day.

Julie O'Brien and Michelle Shobe were our emcees, announcing teams and hyping the crowd up. Dakota Esker and Karson Pruemer donated their time to play music for us.

We had awesome prizes like a cooler bench, a cornhole set, Cards tickets, Guns & Roses and Ted Nugent concert tickets, a patio heater, and many more!

We did have a little competition between the Cubs and Cardinals teams. Unfortunately, the Cubs won...

B&B was the winner for the day for the second year in a row! In their picture they have the "Bone Trophy". Each year we add a "dog tag" to it with the winner's name and year they won.

Each team received a small trophy and gold medals for participating!

We generated over \$13,000 for the day! Everyone was amazing!!!



Bartending Nurses (left to right): Anita Bierman, Ana Meyer, Katie Flach, Heather Lynn, Jody Will



The Cubs team (left to right): Loren Drees, Jeremy Zerrusen, Molly Wilson, Scott Goeckner. Not pictured: Patrick Kreke and Derek Brumleve



The Cards team (left to right): Denise Voelker, Eric Parker, Greg Gillespie, Collin Niemerg, Tara Funneman, Garrett Niemerg



Freedom 68 (left to right): Mitch and Sara Althoff, Michael Flynn, Mike Brookshire, Aaron and Lauren Pals, Luke and Lindsey Althoff



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Hit the Pavement for Paws 5k



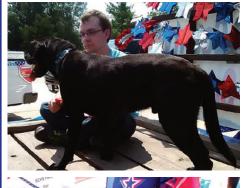








4th of July Parade in Dieterich









Special Needs Companions

The Effingham County Humane Society is a mission of love for all the compassionate and dedicated volunteers. Ask any of them, from volunteers, staff, donors, and board members, and they will tell you they love all four-legged animals, big to tiny, homely to beautiful, near-perfect to damaged and sick. They all deserve the love and safety of a forever home. In any community, there are pitfalls and dangers that await house pets that are forced to survive outside in the extreme temperatures, the dangers of busy roads, and attacks from wildlife and even humans. In rural communities, they also have to survive the machinery required of farming, and the hunting community, of which there are always a few who are irresponsible and less than caring of companion animals. The ECHS has been exposed to the results of these conditions, by the sick, diseased, and injured animals that have been brought into our care. No cat or dog is turned away if we have the space and the volunteers to care for them. We must work on a priority basis during these circumstances and that can lead to some misunderstandings between us and the community and even some of the volunteers. No sick, injured, or orphaned kitten/puppy under 8 weeks will be turned away. That said, sometimes we must refer to another local agency in the event of no space, for adult cats or dogs abandoned at the shelter, or relinquished for nonemergency reasons.



Rusty post-amputation

We have admitted into our shelter all the mistreated, injured, or orphaned babies and adults that have crossed our doorstep. Heartworm has been a large component of our veterinary expenditures. We have treated six in the past year and two more were added this past week. At least twelve kittens were treated for Coccidiosis, of which two kittens were left with resulting neurological damage and permanent motor control issues. One dog and two kittens have had an amputation of a limb, most likely as result of traps. A lot of people will have heard of Henry, who suffered from extensive ringworm, emaciation, heartworm, and then had a massive tumor removed.



Melissa post-amputation

There is a kitten we now have that has a neurological injury and resulting balance issues. Most likely these fragile lives were also dealing with filthy living conditions and starvation. All these pets have been treated, loved, and cuddled and are now in their forever home or in treatment, so they can be released for adoption. Lastly, the most heartbreaking are the FIV positive cats, for which it is very rare and special to find a home that will take in an immunosuppressed cat that could possibly spread it to another. They are always adopted to indoor only homes and as an only cat or with other FIV positive cats. (This disease can be prevented by simple immunization.)

We at the Humane Society, love and care for all the animals that come through our door, but we have to admit that there is a special place in our hearts for the most needy, sick, abused, and maybe not so perfect pets. Many tears are shed in this old building for the lives saved and the ones lost. If you can find a place in your heart and home for one of these special furbabies, please let us know and come in to meet some of these extraordinary survivors.

For a current list of adoptable cats and dogs, go to https://www.facebook.com/effinghamcountyhumanesociety/app/208195102528120/?ref=page_internal



I Want The Perfect Dog!

By Debbie Bauer

It's important when looking for a new dog to have realistic expectations about what a new dog will be like. Many people have a "wish-list" when they come looking for a new dog. They want a small dog, one that doesn't shed, one that is housetrained, and good with kids (or whatever specifics they are looking for).

But it is normal (and happens more often than not) for a newly adopted dog to:

- Potty in the house, even if it was housetrained in its previous home. It doesn't know the schedule in its new house, nor does it know the expectations. Any new dog will need to be put on a schedule for pottying and let out frequently until you get to know each other.
- Not to come when called or stay in the yard off leash. This dog doesn't have a bond with you or with its new home yet. This takes time and training. Every new dog needs to be kept safely contained in a fence and on a leash.
- Show fear of new people, places, and things. It is common for dogs to be fearful, especially

when stressed by the move to a new home and adjustment to a new family. Give them time to get used to their new environment before taking them out to meet all your friends and family.

- To chew and destroy things. These are natural dog behaviors, and again, he is in a new home so does not know the expectations. If your things are lying around, they may get chewed. Puppy proof your home, even if you are getting an adult dog. Consider using a crate for when you must leave the dog alone, to protect your home and to keep the dog safe from eating things he shouldn't until you know it is safe to let him roam your house alone.
- Bark! Dogs do bark! Stress will often cause an increase in barking. Be patient as your new dog settles into his new home. Often excessive barking will calm down after a couple weeks.
- Dig holes. It is normal for dogs to dig and many breeds were bred to hunt underground critters. Leaving a dog alone outside will also often encourage digging as a way to deal with boredom and the frustration of being contained. Bring your dog in the house and give him lots of toys and things to do to keep him busy. *(Continued on next page)*



- Cry when left alone. He is in a new house and once again is all alone. He is afraid and lonely. Leave soft music playing for him when you must leave him alone, and give him Kongs and other toys to chew on to keep him occupied.
- Chase your cat. Even if the dog tested OK with cats at the shelter, your cat will be new to it. Every dog/cat combination will need to establish its own relationship. This will take some time. Teach your new dog that you don't want it to chase the cat and teach it what you do want it to do instead. Offer your cat a safe place where the dog can't go where it can feel safe also.
- Pull on the leash. Dogs need training and they need training by their new owners, even if they've been trained by someone else before. Dogs learn to listen to those who practice with them. Find a trainer or training class that uses positive reinforcement training to help you teach your new dog the behaviors you prefer.
- Get into the garbage. We throw away things that smell really good to dogs food scraps and such. Keep your garbage out of your dog's reach.

Newly adopted dogs are stressed and take several weeks (or longer) to settle into a new home and routine and to begin to bond with a new family. It is important to realize that dogs that come from shelters have been let down in some way by humans before, and they will need patience and loving training to help them learn what this new family expects of them and to know that they are safe.

Great dogs come from shelters, but it does take time and effort on the part of the new adopter to bring out that greatness in them. All dogs need exercise, grooming, veterinary care, and training in addition to their basic needs of companionship, food, water and shelter. Some dogs require more time, training, and exercise than others. Please be realistic about how much you can give to a new dog before you take it home.

Just because a dog is cute, doesn't mean it is the right dog for your lifestyle and environment. ECHS tries hard to place dogs in great homes that will be the best environment for each individual dog.

That perfect dog doesn't really exist – the one that is happy to just lie at your feet all evening, never chews anything it's not supposed to, doesn't shed, never jumps or knocks over the kids, and so on. BUT a dog that can match your lifestyle perfectly is possible with a little thought ahead of time about what you can realistically provide for a new dog. There's nothing that makes the hearts of the volunteers and Deb and Karen swell more than when one of our animals is adopted... except for when the new adopting parents share updates with how our furry friends are spending their lives!



Spike the hound dog was adopted in early July and is comfy at home with his new siblings!

Congrats, Spike!

ANOTHER Success Story!

Well, for "the quietest hound we've ever had at the shelter," Spike is turning into quite the vocal guy. He grumbles, whines, and whistles through his nose, and barks at every truck he sees. I think he's feeling more secure. He sleeps in Jim's and my bedroom, either on his bed, or on ours. He prefers ours, of course.

My daughter just messaged me, and she just got back from walking all three dogs—and they went a full mile! We've been gradually increasing the distance Spike goes—we'd do one block walks several times a day while he was still limping—so for him to go a full mile was excellent progress! He and our two do very well on walks, and as we had hoped, our male, Kaiju, does not go into defender mode when Spike is along on the walk. He can relax and be himself, and not feel he has to protect everyone. Our female, Jaeger, took a little longer to warm to Spike, and still occasionally growls at him, but they all three will bury their noses in the grass to smell something, all right next to each other, without incident

Spike is doing very well on a the raw diet. He's still not sure what to think of the vegetative part of it, so we're concentrating on giving him veggie broth in the evenings with a few small bits of fruit or veggie, and bone broth in the morning. He slurps up the broth, and he likes applesauce mixed in the broth.

He's been to doggie daycare with the other two twice, and does just fine there, as expected. He does NOT like having his nails trimmed with a Dremel tool—we don't know if it's the sound, the feel, or what. He's fine with people handling his paws, so it isn't that. Lauren is doing a little bit every time we bring him just to acclimate him. Now that he isn't limping, and seems to not be in pain, we will probably have her give him a bath, since she is better equipped for it than we are.

Jim and I try very hard not to judge, but it is SO hard to understand how anyone could have given him up. But their decision is our gain, so. . .



The Effingham County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their contributions since the last issue of *Paw Prints*. This list includes donations received from 1/1/17 through 6/30/17. Finally, to the many individuals and businesses who donated goods and services, thereby reducing our cost over all, WE THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

This list does not include the individuals and businesses who donated money or items for auction or raffle at the 7th Annual Mardi Gras Gala on March 24, 2017, and who were listed in our program hand out at the event. Space limitations prohibit us from listing them here. The list will be found in the upcoming Spring 2018 *Paw Prints* newsletter. WE THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!

Double Diamond Donors for Pets (\$2000.00 and above)

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