



Winter 2014

W.O.L.F.

W.O.L.F.

A Day at TWAS....

On January 20th, 2014 a Animal Sanctuary in Keer

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Welcoming Tundra

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Strategic Resci

Mission:

Sanctuar

10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 14th, 2014 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm The Ranch Events Complex - 1st National Bank Building - Loveland, CO

Join us for an evening of celebration filled with food, fun and furry friends! Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone or through the mail. Details are on the website at www.wolfsanctuary.net

For more information about the event, tickets or donating items, please contact Cary Rentola. crentola@wolfsanctuary.net 970-416-9531

Number in Party ____ name: address: x \$50.00 / person \$_ city, st, zip: _____ phone: \$450 Table \$ email: credit card #: Total \$ (Visa or MasterCard only) exp date: _____ security code:_ Send your reservation to W.O.L.F. check #: (checks payable to W.O.L.F.) PO Box 1544 cash: Laporte CO, 80535

Can't Attend? Make a Tax Deductible Donation!

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In This Issue

Cover Photo: Thor

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to rescue Hachi but as soon as we saw him it was an us decision: W.O.L.F. would become his forever home.
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we reached out to all our supporters, in Colorado and \$25,000 for the wolves in our care.
To improve the quality of life for all wolves and wolf dogs.
: Objectives:
 ue - Save captive-bred wolves and wolf-dogs whose guardians are no longer able to care for them. ry - Provide a lifelong home at W.O.L.F. that takes into account each

Provide a lifelong home at W.O.L.F. that takes into account each animal's physical and emotional needs.

Education - Provide the public with information about wolves (both wild and captive) to help foster a greater understanding of them and their value

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Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

The wonder and excitement of a new year is here and at W.O.L.F. we are gearing up for a year where we will celebrate anniversary events, nourish the spirit of new residents and highlight those that have supported our continued efforts to improve the quality of life for all wolves and wolf dogs.

On June 14, 2014 the 10th Annual Waltz for the Wolves will be an evening full of entertainment, silent and live auctions, gourmet food, an ambassador wolf visit and a special tribute to residents who have returned to spirit. We have exciting new additions to the Waltz including bringing on board Auction Event Solutions to coordinate registration, check out, bid sheets and more! Refer to the full-page advertisement in this issue and make your reservations early!

Since our last issue, we are saddened to share that we had to say goodbye to beloved residents Mucqua and Renata. Please read their tributes inside these pages. We have also welcomed two new residents, Tundra and Hachi. Their journeys have not been easy but read about their transitions to W.O.L.F. along with updates on Reese and Thor.

When dealing with a problem the magnitude of the Captive Wildlife Crisis, sanctuaries need all the help they can get to continue making a difference. While we are very dedicated to W.O.L.F., staff and volunteers are equally eager to help out the greater sanctuary community when possible. So we were thrilled when we could put together a workday of our volunteers to help out the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado.

Although the holiday hustle and bustle is behind us, we have great options for Valentine's Day gifts, with our beautiful 2014 calendars on sale now. At the end of the year our calendars provide you with 12 stunning photographs you can keep, frame or share.

We wish for all a safe, happy and successful New Year. At W.O.L.F. we will continue our work, search for a new property and expand our outreach and communication efforts. Thank you for joining us on the journey!

As always, humbly yours,

Shelley





We started shoveling dirt back into holes created by the repurposed telephone poles, now used as fence posts. We walked for acres along the new fencing to ensure the poles were secure. We took a break from backfilling holes to lay grass seed on the dens inside one of the new bear enclosures. The sunshine and warm weather made for a beautiful day to work outside.

After lunch we took a tour of the "Mile Into The Wild" Walkway that overlooks the hundreds of acres that so many magnificent creatures call home. We listened to the chorus of lion roars and wolf howls, watched bears lumber out of their dens to greet the sun, and we were teased by the cuddly-looking bellies of sleeping tigers. As the sun began to set, we got back in our vehicles and headed for home with a sense of wonder and accomplishment.



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A Day at TWAS Amelia Wieber

On January 20th, 2014 a group of W.O.L.F. Volunteers and I went to The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colorado for a day of work. We arrived at 9 am, greeted by howling wolves, which made us feel right at home. We loaded large bags of grass seed, shovels, and rakes into an ATV. We got in our truck and followed animal caretaker, Theresa, through the lion house and about a mile out to the end of the Sanctuary. We were in uncharted territory, far away from where the current animal inhabitants live. Large enclosures were being constructed in order to house more neglected, abused, and/or illegally owned large carnivores.



In My Heart... **Remembering Mucq** by Debbie Dean

Through these eyes, I may not see The love you have For a creature like me.

But through these ears, I can hear you say "How's my boy?" As you head my way.

In your hands Is a special treat Waiting for me Each time we meet.

Then comes the soft touches And a chance to feel A very special love That is oh so real.

Our time is spent Doing things that are fun A walk, a talk, a spa treatment "Oh, no way are you done!"

What can I give back to All those who were there But the strength to fight on When life is unfair.

Now the time has come For us to part, But always remember You were all in my heart. W.O.L.F.



was when I took my family pack of Husky mixes (Beauty, Noble, Freedom and Spirit) and Bailey, my best friend and Golden Retriever, in to spend time with Mucq. Immediately Mucq began to relax and there was no turning back as his personality and confidence began to flourish.

We were anticipating enjoying only several months with him. Mucq had a different agenda as he became stronger, more confident, brighter and even more handsome. His coat became thicker and glistened. We were blessed to spend time with him for 13 months.

Debbie Dean's husband, Clyde, even built a ramp so he could go outside and enjoy the warmth of the sun bathing his sweet soul.

Mucg had many who loved and cared for him. He received massages, grooming sessions and hand feeding. I was ecstatic the first day he took food from my hand and had to take pictures because



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Mucqua **In Loving Memory**

Shelley Coldiron

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In October 2012, I looked at the frightened little blind boy that we barely knew shivering in his doghouse and decided he wasn't spending the winter outside. We moved Mucqua to my heated outbuilding taking out the divider between the two center indoor/ outdoor runs giving him a huge area and spiffing it up for his new digs. The first two weeks, he shivered and urinated on himself as he did at W.O.L.F., frightened of his surroundings and the people who were trying to help him. I began to question whether I made the best decision for him. The turning point



no one would believe me. He soon taught us what his food preferences were and we all loved to please him.

Even though Mucq was without eyes, he saw straight into your soul. And he captured your heart. Lessons learned from Mucqua: Never say never. Never give up. Always stay strong and independent.

What an incredible boy, 21 years strong when he left this world! May his spirit run free. I miss him and what a blessing he was in my life. I look forward to seeing his sweet face when I too pass over the Rainbow Bridge.

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Remembering Mucqua - Karen Silva

Mucqua's calm yet resilient spirit is legendary among the Sanctuary's volunteers and supporters. To gaze upon him without being completely smitten was impossible. There before you was a small, blind, elderly wolf dog who had tragically endured extreme neglect and mistreatment for the first two-thirds of his life, quietly looking back into your eyes. He looked like a fragile teddy bear, but his will to survive was unbreakable.

For nearly six months, I had the honor and pleasure of being Mucqua's overnight caretaker. He and my sweet elderly dog, Ozzy, found comfort in each other's constant companionship and Mucq's confidence grew every day. He lost his fear of unfamiliar humans, and after Ozzy passed away, found Kitty the cat pretty interesting company. As silent as Kitty's movements were, Mucq could always tell where she was. She'd visit him from time to time and they'd gently touch nose to nose.

When the strength in his hind legs faded, Mucq's determination persisted. We began to help him exercise his hind end to keep him as strong as possible. After a few sessions he started exercis-

ing himself, on his own terms at times of his choosing. During the last year of his life, Mucq flourished under the tender loving care he received from his circle of caregivers. He reciprocated that love with precious gifts of tender kisses and resting his head on our bodies. Mucqua crossed over the Rainbow Bridge knowing love and compassion. He will be missed by many, but remains in our hearts forever.

Our Little Black Bear - Susan Weidel

MUCQUA – meaning "bear" (A Native American Tribe of the Fox Nation)



Mucqua was a little black bear of a wolf. He had no eyes but could see with his ears. He was guiet and reserved, and preferred the company of his own kind to that of humans. He allowed human touch when it was light and gentle. He was loved by so many and known by so few. He didn't exude confidence and he didn't have an alpha swagger. He was slow moving and deliberate with a shy nod of the head and a slight movement of the ears.

His story was so sad it could make you weep, but don't. He wasn't a sad or discouraged spirit. He persevered – for 21 years. Mucq was self-contained and often aloof. He knew his wants and he accomplished his tasks. He had economy of movement in everything he did. He was slow and steady but determined nonetheless. He accepted the world into which he was thrust and found his peace - with other animals, a few human friends, and in his guiet reflections in a sunny spot.

He was a wolf with great dignity of spirit and strength of heart, whom I loved. It was a privilege to know him and to care for him. He was the little bear.



Animal Updates: Thor & Reese



Reese

With the colder weather, Reese has turned into a very fluffy girl. Her coat is one of the prettiest at the Sanctuary this year. Reese is still standoffish with her caretakers unless they are offering food. Occasionally she will enter the catch area to watch as people socialize with Outlaw. However, instead of being interested in us, she is most likely missing her playmate and trying to get Outlaw's attention. In their new enclosure they have extra space for their games of wrestling and chase, but only so long as there are no squirrels. Upon spotting a squirrel the game gets immediately put on hold as she goes into squirrel stalking mode. We have not seen her catch one yet but she diligently follows them through the enclosure and is happy to wait patiently at the base of any tree.

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Thor

Recently moving into a larger enclosure, Thor and his companion Ariel are both thriving in their new environment. In fact, Thor's antics and obvious enthusiasm for life have increased exponentially. If you approach the fence he will get doe eyed and begin rubbing along it for a scratch, sometimes almost crawling along the ground on his belly. If you stop, he will jump up to look at you, turn around and begin the process again with his other side pressing against the fence. If your attention wavers he will attempt to regain it by racing around the enclosure in circles with a goofy expression on his face. Although he still will try to nip at your clothing if you are in the enclosure with him, now it is usually in an attempt to get you to play tag.





JJ & Odin

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Remembering Renata



Born in Utah in 2003, Renata lived the first three years of her life happily as a pet with her brother Manny in Utah. However, local ordinances forced her original caretaker to seek a different home for them in 2006. Surrendered to a rescue in California, Renata was heartbroken by her separation from the man who had raised her from mere days old. Her mournful howls and constant pacing prompted her new caretaker to put her on Prozac. After injuring him badly in 2007, Renata again found herself needing a new home or face euthanasia by animal control. This time she was sent to a facility in North Carolina. Happily, her brother Manny arrived at the same shel-

ter shortly thereafter, but their happiness was short-lived.

The woman in charge considered death by a shotgun a humane way of euthanizing the animals in her care, and Manny, for reasons unknown, was eventually killed. This atrocious behavior did not come to light until an employee made public photos of a mass shooting. Desperate to save the remaining animals from harm, rescues all around the country started looking for placement for her animals, and W.O.L.F. agreed to take Renata.



Picking up Renata at DIA

When we picked her up at the airport in August of 2010, we were greeted by a seven-year-old animal that looked fifteen. Her fur was course and matted with huge chunks missing as if someone had cut large sections away with a pair of scissors. Her ears were furless from fly bites, her front teeth worn to almost nothing and her feet so dry and cracked that she constantly shifted her weight back and forth in discomfort.

As her life at the Sanctuary began and her health started to recover, we discovered underneath all the hardship and tearful howls a passionate, vibrant personality. Alpha to the extreme, one always played by her rules when in the

enclosure. These rules included being forced to leave because you forgot she disliked gloves, the mandatory belly rub after she fell over from doing a headstand in your lap or submitting to the routine "bath" as she would always



find a way to lick your stomach no matter how many layers of clothing you wore. She was a beautiful animal who delighted in surprising staff and volunteers with new "rules" regularly. She was also very dedicated to her elderly companion, Webster. The two would often be seen walking or sleeping together.

Less than a month before the High Park Fire, Renata began having seizures. Despite our best efforts we never discovered the cause of her sudden illness and could only ever manage the symptoms. For over a year she remained happy, though the riot of colorful behaviors was muted by her medications. She started taking regular walks with Webster around the property and loved to splash or sleep in her water trough during the summer.

August 2013 brought an emotional rollercoaster that would last for months. She was slowing down and the medications were no longer controlling the seizures as well as they had. We started adjusting dosages and changing meds to try to help her cope, but the question we found ourselves asking repeatedly was, "Is today the day we help her pass?" Some days it looked like she was ready, but the next she would be up and bouncing around as energetically as her new companion, Sigmund. True to her nature, she kept us all on the edge of our seats, trying in vain to read the mind of the wolf with the heart of a survivor. In the end, Renata was the one to make the decision and left us on her own the night of November 6, 2013.

reason for the seizures or even a cause of death. It appears that Renata, true to form, changed the rules on us one more time and left us not because her body failed her but because she chose to.

Her perseverance and strength was truly amazing. Despite everything she suffered in her life. Renata seemed determined to live it to the fullest and left it ready to experience the adventure of the great beyond. We can only hope that Webster and Manny were there to greet her and keep her company along the way. Although her physical body is greatly missed, her memory, passion and courage remain behind as an inspiration to us all. We love you.

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Renata was a mystery to the end. The necropsy could not determine a



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Welcoming **Tundra**



Tundra was born in April 2009 at a "mill" type breeding facility in Wisconsin and it is unknown how many litters of puppies she's had. The facility came under the scrutiny of the county Animal Control Office (ACO) and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) when it was found to be illegally breeding and selling wolf dogs and was in violation of state and county regulations that require spay/neuter and licensing. Conditions at the facility were awful. The animals were infested with worms and Tundra may have delivered her last litter of pups outside with only a leaning wood pallet for shelter.

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Through the efforts of many amazing, compassionate people and their organizations, Tundra's future would be much brighter than her past. A concerned DNR warden contacted The Grey Wolf Central Wolfdog Rescue in Wisconsin about the breeding facility. Grey Wolf had previously rescued several animals sold by that breeder, one of them being a beautiful black son of Tundra's. The Rescue collaborated with the county ACO and DNR to work with the breeder, but by April 2011 it was evident the breeder would ultimately be shut down and they needed to pull Tundra and the other 4 remaining animals. An organization that raises funds for spay/neuter, *Save A Dog*, offered to pay for the entire vetting costs including spay/ neuter for all five animals.

The Grey Wolf Rescue had room for only one animal. Tundra and the other three were taken in by a wonderful family who had previously fostered Tundra's son. Tundra lived in, and was dearly loved, by the foster home for approximately 2 years.

In early November 2013, W.O.L.F. experienced the heartbreaking loss of our beloved Renata. Her companion, Sigmund, was especially distraught as she was the second companion he'd lost in less than a year. Grey Wolf brought Tundra to our attention and we all felt she'd be perfect for Siggy.

Tundra seemed to sense W.O.L.F. was her forever home as soon as she arrived. She and Sigmund initially greeted one another with wagging tails through the fence, and when the gate opened, Tundra gave Siggy a human-style hug with her front

W.O.L.F.

legs around his chest. She quickly warmed up to the people and animals around her. She's super enthusiastic about treats and scent-rubbing on humans. Tundra carries and protects her stuffed toys as though they were her puppies, and Siggy is very protective of her. Tundra can usually be seen lounging on the roof of her house, where she watches the Sanctuary activities like a queen gazing over her court.

Tundra's appearance resembles those of our dearly departed Mucqua and Boots. We've learned that Mucqua sired many litters of pups in the same area of Wisconsin before he and Boots came to us with the Wide Awake rescue, and Boots may have been one his offspring. While we have no way of knowing for certain, Tundra may be a descendant of one or both of them.



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Up until four months ago, Reuben's life was anything but good. Arriving at the Adams County Shelter in October 2013 after being confiscated from an animal hoarder whose property was condemned, he had nowhere to go but up. And so it was that a shelter employee, who had worked tirelessly to save Reuben, started his new lease on life by renaming him Hachi, which is a Japanese term for good fortune.

We were not intending to rescue him. With



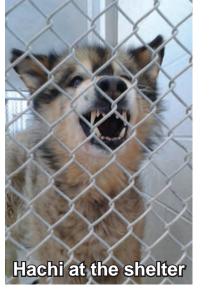
our current population only one space was available, and we didn't feel it was right to bring Hachi in since he would have to remain alone. But the woman at the shelter was desperate. Hachi had already been there for three months and the shelter environment was destroying him mentally.

Hachi Comes Home

When he arrived at the shelter Hachi was terrified. He had received little contact from the owner over the nine years he lived there and medically he was in poor condition. He was in-

fested with lice and fleas, his ears were fly-bitten, his fur was horribly matted and most was missing along the entire length of his tail.

Alone in a tiny, noisy, indoor environment surrounded by unfamiliar dogs and people with nowhere to hide or escape, Hachi turned to the only course of action left to him; ag-



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gression. The shelter staff was scared of him, but no one could blame him for this reaction and they didn't want to see him euthanized for something that was obviously not his fault. They treated his condition as best they could under the circumstances. Eventually he was officially surrendered to the shelter and W.O.L.F. was contacted.

We ran through our options. Could we find placement for a 13-year-old wolf dog? Could we get permission to have 31 animals so we could get him a companion? Could we temporarily house him at W.O.L.F. until a suitable home could be found? Eventually we decided to go to the shelter to do a behavioral assessment and then try to find Hachi appropriate placement.

As soon as we saw him it was an almost instant, unanimous decision: W.O.L.F. would become his forever home. Tucked away in the fur-

W.O.L.F.

thest corner of their quarantine section, our first glimpse of Hachi was one of charging teeth and barking growls. It was obvious that he was going insane in the shelter and after looking into his confused, terrified face there was no way we could say no. Arrangements were made with the shelter to have him given a full vet exam before coming to the Sanctuary so we would know exactly what needed to happen to continue the healing process.

On January 8th, 2014 Hachi was sedated and brought into the shelter clinic for a general exam and vaccinations. What we found left us scrambling to locate another clinic that could see him immediately. The shelter was not equipped to handle the extensive care he would need.

Luckily, Advanced Animal Care in Fort Collins had the availability to see him. Hachi had 10 teeth extracted due to advanced periodontal disease and three possibly cancerous masses removed from the base of his tail. We also found out that he has cataracts in both eyes, arthritis and some muscle atrophy in his back legs. While Hachi was un-

der, we brushed him out as best we could and gave him a sponge bath. Due to the extended surgery time, Hachi needed to recover overnight indoors and was brought to W.O.L.F. the next morning. By morning, he was back to his old self, growling and lunging at the sides of his crate when anyone came near. He was carefully carried into his new enclosure and placed where we could open the kennel and remain safely out of reach. At first Hachi refused to move, he stared at the open door as if dreaming. Then he took a tentative step forward, and another, until he was standing in the snow. Slowly he made his way around the enclosure, ignoring the humans watching just outside the gate, as he investigated every tree and bush. He seemed shocked to be outside again and in such a large space.

It took less than two hours to discover Hachi's alter ego, one who approaches the fence with tail wags when you bring him his favorite treat (canned cat food) and sits quietly on his dog bed or in his house when we're in the enclosure poop scooping. Though we still watch him carefully to make sure we are not causing him to feel threatened and become aggressive, we are heartened by the quick shift in his behavior. We hope that he will continue to heal as time passes and look forward to seeing his happy face each day.



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Volunteer Spotlight

Michael Hogan began volunteering for W.O.L.F. in September 2006, shortly after moving to Fort Collins to attend Colorado State University (CSU). He is one of two Level 4 volunteers, which is the highest honor a volunteer can earn. He is very knowledgeable about all things W.O.L.F., and he is a great mentor to new volunteers. Michael enjoys taking part in physical labor such as enclosure building and maintenance, and taking the animals on walks.

Despite having a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from CSU, his current occupation is data analyst at a local company in Fort Collins that provides software and data services to oil and gas pipeline op-

erators. In his spare time he likes to work out, study and translate Japanese, watch movies, and play the occasional video game.

When asked whom his favorite wolf was he wrote, "At the moment I would say Isabeau is my favorite animal. She was given to the Sanctuary just a few weeks before I started volunteering so I've known her since she was a puppy. Her energy makes her lots of fun and you never know what to expect from her. Shaman was another animal that made a big impression on me. An arctic wolf, he was one of the first animals I saw during my first visit. I remember seeing him standing at the gate when I arrived and how he stood out among the other house-pack animals at the time. I would say "grumpy" was the best word to describe his demeanor, so it always made you feel special when he would paw at your leg to be pet, or climb up on your shoulders to scent-rub you."

The W.O.L.F. staff always looks forward to Michael's shift, because we know a lot of work will get done that will meet or exceed our expectations. He is friendly, intelligent, and funny. We are grateful for his involvement and dedication to W.O.L.F.





For Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 we reached out to all our supporters, in Colorado and beyond, for help to raise \$25,000 for the wolves in our care.

The support we received from our donors was amazing! 419 individual donors gave over \$30,500 with 100% of all donations coming directly to the Sanctuary. All processing fees were waived on Colorado Gives Day!

In addition, W.O.L.F. won three NoCoGives Colorado Gives Day prizes - Most \$ Raised (small nonprofit category), Most Unique Donors (small nonprofit category) and a Donor Prize! We received an additional \$4,500 in combined award money for a Colorado Gives Day grand total of over \$35,000! To earn the donor prize, each donation to a Larimer County nonprofit on Colorado Gives Day was entered into a random drawing. Karen Ludwig's donation was one of 10 donations selected and increased by \$1,000 (funded from the NoCoGives prize pool, generously offered by local sponsors). We are so grateful for your generosity and helping us reach our goal. All funds will be used to

continue the daily care of our residents and to continue our rebuilding efforts resulting from 2013's weather related damage.

A record 88,571 donations were made online at ColoradoGives.org, surpassing last year's total of 69,127. Since its inception in 2007, more than \$79 million has been raised through ColoradoGives. org for nonprofit organizations.

Colorado Gives Day is an initiative to increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, Colorado Gives Day takes place during a 24-hour period every December and encourages donations to favorite causes. Donations are accepted through the website ColoradoGives.org, a year-round giving resource featuring hundreds of charities. Colorado Gives Day would not be possible without the generous support of FirstBank. This year,

Fund and nonprofit cash prizes.



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FirstBank donated \$600,000 to support Colorado Gives Day, which includes the FirstBank Incentive

2014 W.O.L.F. Calendars On Sale! \$7.50 plus shipping **While Supplies Last**

Don't forget to check our Zazzle store at wolfsanctuary.net for new merchandise!



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