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GUIDE DOG MOBILITY
INSTRUCTORS JACK
ENGLAND (L) AND
JEFF GREY



Guide Dogs
for the Blind



Guide Dogs for the Blind

A NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

CONTACT INFO

California Campus, National Headquarters:

350 Los Ranchitos Road, San Rafael, CA 94903
415.499.4000 | Fax 415.499.4035

Mailing address (donations only):

P.O. Box 3950, San Rafael, CA 94912-3950

Oregon Campus:

32901 S.E. Kelso Road
Boring, OR 97009
503.668.2100
Fax 503.668.2141

800.295.4050 | guidedogs.com

In Canada: Guide Dogs for the Blind International

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1275 STN K, Toronto, ON M4P 9Z9

Canadian registration number: 83061 8682 RR0001

866.797.6603 | gdbinternational.ca

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Guide Dogs for the Blind follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools and the International Guide Dog Federation for the humane care and training of our dogs, and the instruction and services offered to our clients.

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Send a donation today by mailing a gift in the enclosed envelope or donating online.

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guidedogs.com/newsgift

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Contact us at 800.295.4050 ext. 4160 or visit our website at guidedogs.com/waystogive to learn how you can:

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On occasion, GDB will share donor information with like-minded non-profit organizations to better fulfill our mission. If you do not want your information shared, please email us at donations@guidedogs.com.



Please recycle this newsletter!

GREETINGS FROM THE CEO

Greetings,

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome fall, I can't help noticing how much has changed due to COVID-19, but also what's remained the same: our commitment to fulfill our mission, no matter what.

As we continue to ramp up operations on our Oregon and California campuses, I am pleased to report that breeding has begun, puppies are flourishing in our Puppy Center, instructors are training guide dogs, and clients are undergoing training.

Innovative Mission-Based Solutions

We know that many of the best ideas are born from necessity, and our teams at GDB have risen to challenges created by the pandemic. To ensure the ongoing protection and care of our GDB community, we have developed additional safety protocols and innovative ways to carry out our programs. For example, we have provided virtual training classes to puppy raisers and personalized videoconference training to foster families to ensure our guide dogs in training maintain their skills.

We are also offering individual client training classes and have purchased audio headsets so instructors and students can communicate more effectively while remaining socially distant. While these one-to-one training services are more expensive, we are committed to meeting our clients' needs and moving our mission forward. With your support, GDB will continue to utilize technology in new and exciting ways, creating smarter programs while building a greater sense of community for everyone involved.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support through these unprecedented times. As a valued member of our GDB community, you are a big part of our ongoing success! To see your impact, visit guidedogs.com/FY20 to watch our video: *Thanks for Making FY20 Great!* Thank you for helping us create life-changing partnerships!

With gratitude,


Chris Benninger
President and CEO



CAMP GDB LEADS TO NEW LEASH ON LIFE FOR TEENS

This year, 18 Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) campers donned their camp t-shirts, gathered around the campfire, sang songs, and learned about the guide dog lifestyle. But there was one catch: they did it all virtually. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, campers participated in these activities through videoconferencing.



TOP: CAMP GDB GOODIE BOX. ABOVE: GDB FIELD SERVICES MANAGER WILL HENRY LEADING A VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE SONG ON HIS UKULELE.

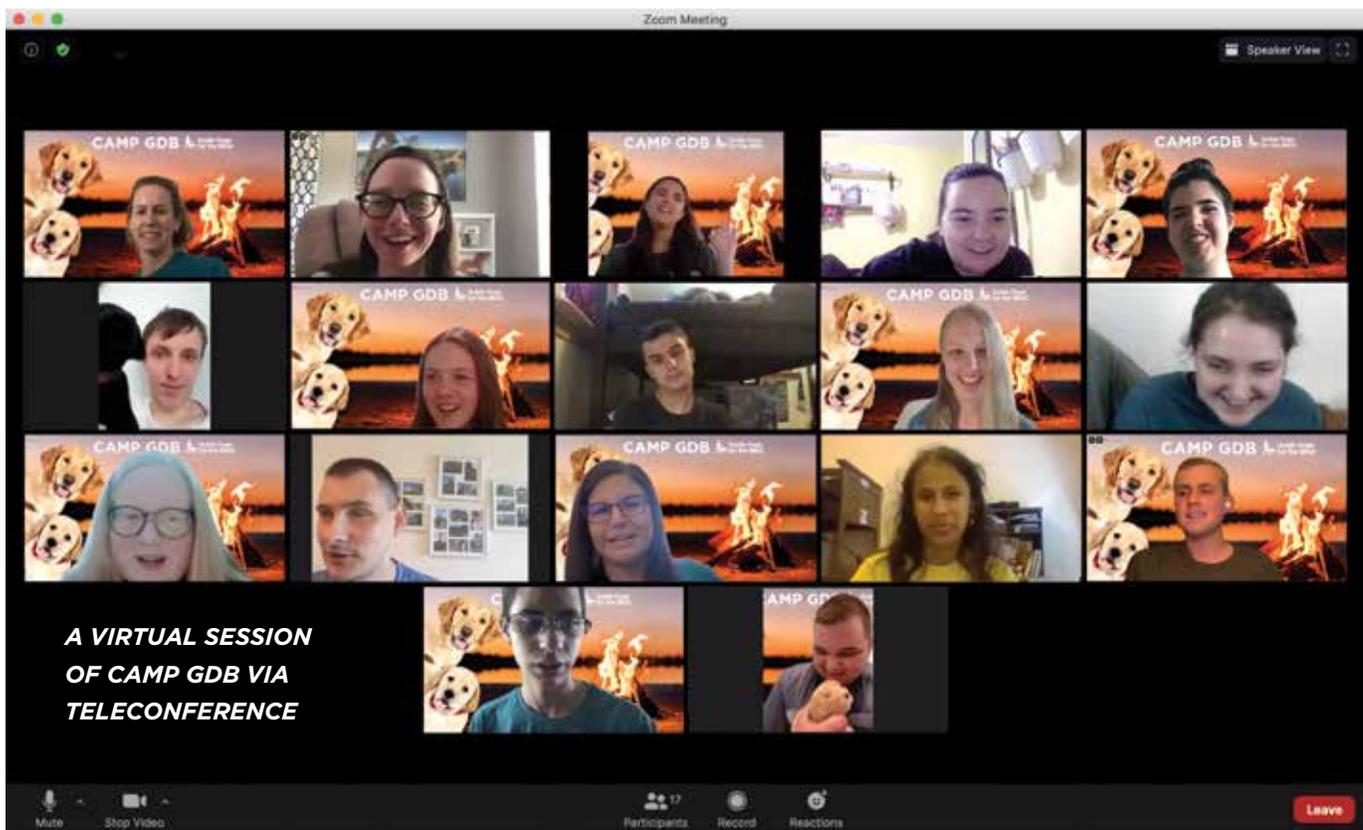
Youth Outreach Specialist and Camp Director Jane Flower says Camp GDB gives teens ages 14 to 17 who are blind or visually impaired the opportunity to meet other like-minded teens across the country. “Being blind or visually impaired can be socially isolating for many teens, Jane explains. “Camp gives these kids a fun opportunity to connect with one another.”

Although the environment was different this year, the camaraderie, learning, and fun were very much in full swing. Each camper received a “Camp-In-A-Box” containing a camp t-shirt, GDB-branded water bottle, s’mores kits, a plush guide dog toy, a clicker tool used in guide dog training, and information on camp activities. The camp kicked off with a virtual campfire and music led by GDB Field Services Manager Will Henry, who sang and strummed his ukulele.

Session topics with guest speakers included the difference between using a white cane and a guide dog, how to use GPS apps for the blind and visually impaired to map a route, and the challenges and benefits of having

a guide dog in high school and college. One concern several teens had: “how often do you have to take your guide dog to go to the bathroom?”

GDB Admissions Program Coordinator Megan Dameron and Community Outreach Specialist Jake Koch led campers in a discussion on how to research and choose a guide dog school. “Not all guide dog schools are created equal and it’s important to do your research,” explained Jake.



Campers Ethan and Kaitlyn, both of whom attended last year's camp, spoke to this year's campers and shared their stories of applying to GDB and being accepted into training to receive their first guide dog.

Kaitlyn considered three different guide dog schools and was particularly impressed with GDB's home interview process. "After I turned in my application, I was interviewed by phone and then a team came to my house to make sure my environment was safe for a guide dog. They also went to my school. It was very thorough and a big reason I chose GDB."

Ethan said camp has been a great way for him to meet other teens who are blind or visually impaired and interested in having a guide dog. Typically, Camp GDB involves group activities like



hiking, whitewater rafting, and walking with a guide dog. "While there were no in-person activities this year, even virtual, it's great because you can still gain a lot of insight, chat with others, meet new people, and figure out if the guide dog lifestyle is for you," explained Ethan.

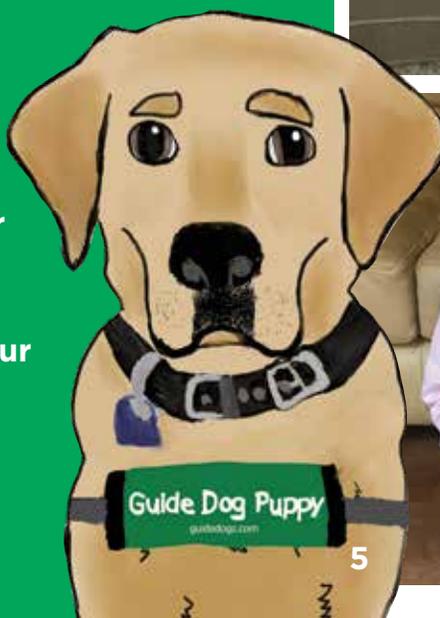
Other teens described virtual camp as "awesome," "fun," "memorable," "interesting," "different," and "informative." Camper Kate, from Dallas, Texas, enjoyed learning about the responsibilities and benefits of getting a guide dog. "I was pretty sure I wanted a guide dog. Now I'm 99.9% sure I want one. Hopefully, I can start the paperwork to get a guide dog. I'm really excited."

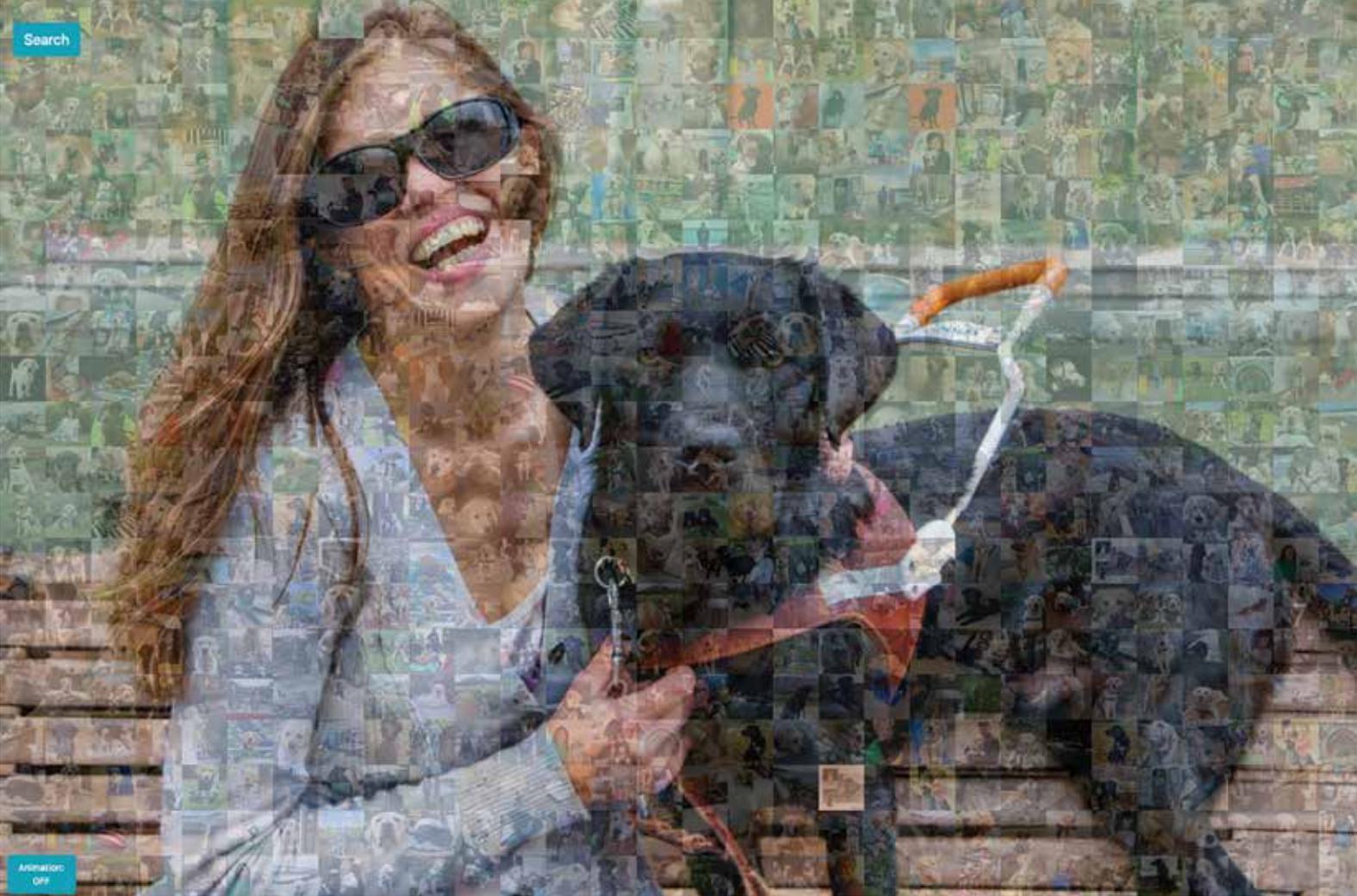
Want to learn more? Please check out our Camp GDB 2020 highlight video at youtube.com/user/guidedogsaregreat

FUN WEEK

READY RAISER ONE!

A summer tradition at GDB has always been our annual Fun Days, held on both of our campuses to celebrate our volunteer puppy raisers. This year, we took the fun online and not only held a Fun Day, but turned it into an entire Fun Week! The virtual event, with the vintage video game theme of “Ready Raiser One,” included live videoconference sessions and pre-recorded on-demand presentations from our staff experts on a host of topics ranging from veterinary care and canine campus life, to guide dog training and client instruction. We also had plenty of fun—as advertised! There were games like a GDB trivia contest and a Pack-Man scavenger hunt, and we even hosted dozens of virtual littermate meet-ups. We may not have been together in person this year, but the educational activities and sense of community were as strong as ever. Thank you, as always, to all of our volunteer puppy raisers for their time, energy, and love in support of our life-changing mission!





ABOVE: DURING FUN WEEK, PUPPY RAISERS SUBMITTED PHOTOS ONLINE TO CREATE A VIRTUAL MOSAIC. THE RESULTING IMAGE IS ABOVE, COMPRISED OF 375 INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

PICTURED—OPPOSITE PAGE

1—Guide Dog puppy *Drake* participating in Fun Week’s Pack-Man Challenge scavenger hunt where participants identified obstacles on the sidewalk that GDB clients might encounter on their daily walks. 2—David Rohrer with puppy *Latifah*. 3—Puppies *Unesco* and *Derby* as Mario and Luigi from Mario Brothers. 4—Karen Sonobe with puppy *Baxter*. 5—Guide dog puppy illustration by Emma Galbincea from the “How to Draw a Puppy” Fun Week activity. 6—Puppy raiser Cadence Chiu with bunny *Blinky* and puppy *Fritter*.

PICTURED—THIS PAGE

7—Puppy *Jammy* as Princess Peach. 8—*Atlantic* and *Fran* helping with a Fun Week Zoom call. 9—Puppy *Usha* as a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle. 10—Puppy *Rosalita* as Ms. Pac Man.



GUIDE DOG TRAINING ADAPTS TO COVID-19

When COVID-19 hit, we had to act fast to keep our employees, volunteers, and clients safe. That meant transitioning many of our dogs off campus to live with experienced GDB foster care and puppy raising families. One of those volunteers, Sharon Labs of Portland, Ore., fostered a guide dog in training for three months. During that time, she received virtual instruction and support from Guide Dog Apprentice Instructor Joey Foat and Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Michael Montgomery.

VIRTUAL TEAMWORK

Sharon says her weekly video calls with Joey and Michael were informative, supportive, and inspiring. “Initially, I felt the weight of responsibility for this dog that had nearly completed her formal guidework training before the pandemic,” she said. With Joey and Michael’s guidance, Sharon was able to work with her foster dog on tasks like walking while wearing a head collar, going for walks in inclement weather, extended sit-stay and down-stay exercises, and proper dining table etiquette. They even taught her how to set up a simple agility course in her driveway for added shelter-in-place fun.



*ABOVE: GUIDE DOG
MOBILITY INSTRUCTOR
MICHAEL MONTGOMERY*



*TOP RIGHT: FOSTER CARE
VOLUNTEER SHARON LABS*



*BOTTOM RIGHT: GUIDE
DOG APPRENTICE
INSTRUCTOR JOEY FOAT*

Joey says Sharon did “an amazing job” making sure her foster dog met weekly training goals and took time out for plenty of play sessions. Michael concurs. “Sharon has a curiosity and awareness about dog behavior that serves her well. She is as an overachiever who goes above and beyond because of how much she cares. We always joked about her wanting extra credit assignments.”

The two say their video calls taught them valuable lessons on how to use technology to visually communicate a desired dog behavior to volunteers while creating a greater sense of community for everyone involved.

Sharon says the video chats helped her gain a new understanding and respect for GDB’s staff. “Joey and Michael helped me to bring out her finest qualities and made me feel part of the extended GDB team. Their professionalism,

dedication, and passion for GDB’s mission is incredibly inspiring.”

HELP TRAIN GUIDE DOG TEAMS

With your ongoing support, we are adapting our dog training program and developing innovative ways to train our next generation of guide dogs while ensuring the health and safety of our staff, clients, and volunteers.

Your support will help provide:

- **Distance learning** for puppy raisers and foster care providers to keep guide dogs in training healthy, and to ensure they maintain the skills they have already learned.
- **Personalized in-home training** to clients who are unable to travel to our campuses.
- **Audio headsets** so guide dog mobility instructors and students can communicate more effectively while remaining socially distant.

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR TRAINING PROGRAM

***A GENEROUS ARIZONA COUPLE WILL MATCH
ALL GIFTS UP TO \$50,000!***

Make a donation by **NOVEMBER 13, 2020** to support GDB’s training program. Please use the attached envelope to mail your donation today or donate online at guidedogs.com/newsgift.

▶ **\$50** provides a leash and grooming supplies

▶ **\$100** helps provide transportation for one puppy to either our CA or OR campus for guide dog training

▶ **\$250** assists with veterinary care for off-campus adult dogs

▶ **\$500** provides audio headsets, so instructors and clients can maintain social distancing

▶ **\$1,000** provides 8 hours of personalized in-home training with a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor

Our new Puppy Center is back in business! The Center was briefly shut down after COVID-19 hit, due to shelter-in-place orders. As we ramp up our breeding operations in order to serve future clients, we expect to have a growing number of puppies in the Puppy Nursery and Young Heroes Academy sections of the Puppy Center this fall and winter.

The 28,000 square foot Center on our California campus provides enhancements in animal welfare and socialization, biosecurity, and improved working environments. We know that when puppies are raised in more nurturing, enriching environments that fosters their confidence and provides early interactive experiences, they are much more likely to reach their potential to become guide dogs.

The Center has three key components:

- **The Puppy Nursery**
for healthier, more nurturing habitats for mothers and their pups
- **The Young Heroes Academy** for early socialization and enrichment areas for puppies
- **The Learning Lab**
featuring educational displays and interactive learning opportunities for the public about breeding, neonatal, veterinary, client, and puppy raising programs



CANINE WELFARE-NEONATAL SPECIALIST RHIANNON BENSON AND A PUPPY WITH A MILK MUSTACHE IN OUR NEW PUPPY CENTER.

By increasing capacity, creating healthier and more enriching environments, and educating our visitors in unique ways, our vision for giving our puppies a better start in life and improving their chances of becoming a guide dog through a new state-of-the art facility is now a reality, thanks to so many of you!

Grand Opening

Originally, we had planned to host a grand opening event this fall. Due to the pandemic, we have postponed this large-scale celebration. In the meantime, we have created a video featuring some of our moms and puppies in the new center. To view the video, please visit: guidedogs.com/puppycentervideo



VIRTUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 2020, 5 PM (PST)

Join us for this FREE event featuring inspiring stories, lots of puppies, and opportunities to fund our mission—all from the comfort of your own home! More info at guidedogs.com/events

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & CONTINUED SUPPORTERS April 1-June 30, 2020

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS Honoring the generous donors who contribute \$5,000+ annually.

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NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS April 1-June 30, 2020

Recognizing the vision of those who have included GDB in their estate plans.

Timothy Seavey
James and Wendy Shank

Carol Starbuck
Doreen Weaver

LOOKING FOR SECURE INCOME?

You can support the mission of Guide Dogs for the Blind and receive guaranteed income for life by participating in our Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) program.

Additional benefits of a CGA include:

- Avoiding market uncertainty and investment worries by offering a constant annual income.
- Capital gains tax savings if appreciated securities are used to fund your annuity.



Age	Rate	<i>Two life and deferred rate annuities also available.</i>
65	4.2%	
70	4.7%	
75	5.4%	
80	6.5%	
85	7.6%	
90+	8.6%	



GIFT ANNUITY PROPOSAL

How would a charitable gift annuity work for me? (Minimums: age 50, \$5,000 gift)

My birthdate: _____ #2 Annuitant's birthdate: _____

Sample gift amount: \$5,000 \$10,000 \$50,000 Other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

GDB is in my estate plan. I accept the invitation to be recognized as a member of the Legacy Society.

Return to:

Joan Scott, Planned Giving
Guide Dogs for the Blind
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