

Puppies Behind Bars

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PHOTOS BY VALERIE SHAFER

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE SERVICE DOGS FOR THE DISABLED AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE PUPPY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007-08

WEST POINT'S PUPPY PLATOON

Has America's legendary military academy rolled over for a bunch of puppies? Is West Point going to the dogs? If you talk to Captain Jana Fajardo, who alongside her husband, Captain Denis Fajardo, organizes weekly visits by P.B.B. dogs to West Point's Warrior Transition Unit (W.T.U.), you learn that being with one of these pups is a bit like hanging out with a celebrity. "You walk down the street, everyone stops," Jana reports. "They get down on the ground. Everyone loves the dogs."

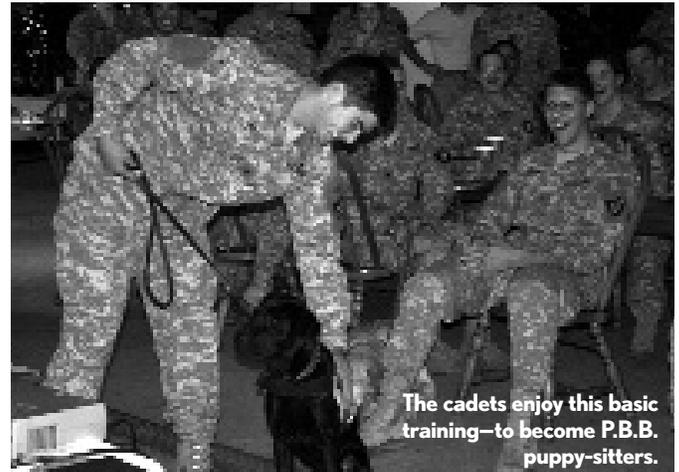
West Point has truly taken Puppies Behind Bars's mission to heart. "Everyone wants to help," says Amy CuvIELLO, who is married to a West Point professor, Major Matthew CuvIELLO. Last August, Amy took a class to become a weekend puppy-sitter, but in just a few short months the CuvIELLOS, like the Fajardos, have found themselves helping to organize a puppy invasion of the campus. (Not to mention the fact that Matt has joined P.B.B.'s advisory board, Amy is about to start work as a P.B.B. prison instructor, and Denis is on the board of directors.)

Every Sunday, two cadets drive out to one of five prisons, pick up 11 dogs, and bring them back to another 22 cadets, who pair up for four hours of socialization. The pups get used to uniforms, which can be intimidating, and to the sound of boots, among other new experiences.

Given the average down-time of a West Point student—which is just about zero; Sunday is their only day off—Amy and Matt were stunned by the response they got after an initial presentation about P.B.B. in the mess hall: 300 cadets said they wanted to get involved. "They have so much on them," Amy

says. "They're going on so little sleep. Plus they have to be in full dress uniform in order to puppy-sit, they have to be outside the whole time, and it's been getting cold. But they want to do it anyway. When you see a cadet throwing the kong for a dog and laughing—I think it's a huge stress reliever for them. They are getting such a big kick out of it."

The fact that some of the pups will be donated



The cadets enjoy this basic training—to become P.B.B. puppy-sitters.

to disabled veterans, through P.B.B.'s Dog Tags initiative, resonates deeply with the cadets. "They feel the calling to serve, and this is their way to serve," Amy adds. And the entire West Point community is right behind them.

"Anything I can do to help," Lieutenant Colonel Jim Flowers, the man in charge of cadet activities, told the CuvIELLOS. Informed about the number of cadets who wanted to get involved, and asked for permission to hold a training session, he said, "Go for it. I'll pay for the pizza."

It ended up taking 45 pizzas, 20 gallons of ice-

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CLOSE CALL



Glenn Close's many fans at Puppies Behind Bars were thrilled to learn that the star of such classics as *The Big Chill*, *Fatal Attraction*, and *101 Dalmatians*, plus the critically acclaimed new TV series *Damages*, was a fan of P.B.B.'s work, which she learned about when she was involved in a writing program at the Bedford Hills women's prison. Close has a blog on the new website **Fetchdog.com**, which hand-picks "the finest dog supplies from around the world," and she also recommends certain products—with a percentage of sales going to P.B.B.

Here's an excerpt of Fetchdog's recent interview with Close, who has two beloved pups of her own, Bill and Jake (see photo, above right). For the full article, and a look at her product picks, visit **Fetchdog.com**.

FETCHDOG: When did you become a dog lover?

GC: Before I was born. Both my parents are huge animal lovers. When I was little, and my father was in medical school in New York, he would rescue street dogs from the labs and bring them out to the country. It made for a very motley pack. My first dog was a beautiful tri-colored collie named Merry-Mark-of-Mooreland, but I called

him Docus. I must have been about four or five when he died. I wore his collar as a belt.

FD: Why dogs?

GC: I believe that dogs teach us kindness, loyalty, responsibility, and unconditional love. A dog's sensitivity to every nuance of our voice and body language teaches us to be aware of how our actions affect other living creatures. It's very basic.

FD: How did Bill and Jake come into your life?

GC: A woman in McAllister, Montana, has been breeding a very special combination of various terriers for a number of years. [My daughter] Annie picked Jake out of a litter after we had lost a dog. He is the smartest and sweetest dog I have ever known. Bill is Jake's nephew and side-kick. They keep us laughing.

FD: What kind of cars would they drive?

GC: Jake would drive an old, second-hand Mercedes and Bill would drive a Mini Cooper.

FD: What do Bill and Jake like most about you?

GC: I can read their thoughts; which isn't

that great a feat since they usually have one of three things on their minds: When's dinner? Can we come? I need to go out.

FD: How did you rationalize playing Cruella—the most famous dog hater ever—with the fact that you are such an avid dog lover?

GC: I actually had a hard time with it.

Whenever I was in full Cruella drag, no dog would have anything to do with me. My costumes frightened them even before I opened my mouth. It was sad for me because we had extraordinary canines in both movies.

FD: Is there a secret about you that only your dogs know?

GC: I've been known to snack on an occasional dog biscuit.

FD: What is your dogs' pet peeve about you?

GC: That I can get distracted between "Want to go out?" and actually opening the door.

FD: What musical instruments would your dogs play?

GC: Jake: A sweet jazz saxophone. Bill: A kazoo.

FD: What do your dogs think about cats?

GC: Jake: They're okay as long as they move slowly and are polite. Bill: Whatever Jake thinks.

FD: What is your dogs' favorite movie?

GC: Jake: *A Man For All Seasons*. Bill: *Forrest Gump*.

FD: What is it about you that make your dogs most proud?

GC: I am not intimidated by loud barking.

FD: If your dog were a famous person, who would it be?

GC: Bill would be Barney Fife and Jake would be the Dalai Lama.

FD: What is Jake and Bill's idea of perfect happiness?

GC: Jake: To be included. Bill: A bottomless food bowl.

FD: What is your idea of perfect happiness?

GC: To be under the shade of a beautiful tree, on a breezy, high-summer day, with a good book, a dog at my feet, and the people I love most within sight.

P.B.B. needs your support!

Puppy Kiss... \$\$\$...you decide!

Collar & Leash \$25

Embroidered Puppy Jacket \$50

Sponsor a Pup \$3000

Puppy Food \$100

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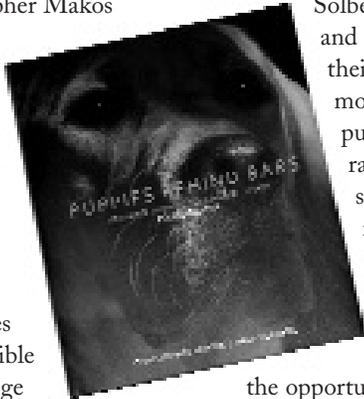
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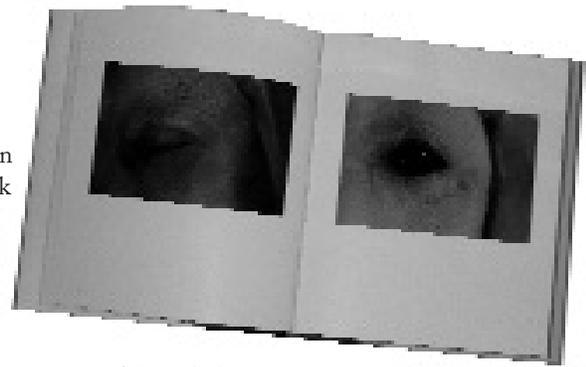
WAG THE BOOK

The book of the decade (well, our decade, anyway) is on sale now, in bookstores and online at www.puppiesbehindbars.com.

Two world-class photographers, Christopher Makos and Paul Solberg, have produced *Puppies Behind Bars / Photographs* (Glitterati), a dazzling and definitive look at the program. Designed by Kathy McGilvery, with text by P.B.B. founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga, it captures the journey these incredible dogs make, as they change the lives of inmates, volunteers, and their ultimate partners.



Since the organization was founded in 1997, P.B.B.'s dogs have gone on to work in places as diverse as the Vatican, Iraq, and New York City. Makos and Solberg document the hard work and real devotion that goes into their training, from the first moments of bonding between a puppy and the inmate who will raise it, to their classroom sessions, to the many playful moments they will share in the months to come. Gilbert Stoga's narrative describes their extensive impact on society: Convicted felons get the opportunity to contribute to the society they harmed, even as they experience the unconditional love only a dog can provide.



A broad, diverse community—the blind, the disabled, sick children, senior shut-ins, and law enforcement—benefits from the services of these extraordinary canine collaborators and companions.

Buy the book directly from P.B.B. and 100 percent of the proceeds go to our pups: \$50.00 for regular hardcover; \$250.00 for a deluxe collector's edition (boxed). To order, visit <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> or call (212) 680-9562.

BOARD BOOM

P.B.B. welcomes three new members to its board of directors and one addition to the advisory board:

- **Whitney Bracco**, who served on P.B.B.'s benefit committee, working to make the tenth-anniversary bash a success, is a social work and sociology major at Fordham University's graduate school of social work.
- **Captain Denis Fajardo**, now stationed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, is earning his masters in psychology at Columbia University Teacher's College.
- **Brian Fischer**, commissioner of New York's Department of Correctional Services, was appointed by Governor Eliot Spitzer in January, confirmed by the state senate in March, and joined P.B.B.'s board in August.
- **Major Matthew Cuvillo**, newest member of the advisory board, is also stationed at the West Point military academy, where he teaches geography.

In October, **Glenn Goord**, a founding board member and former commissioner of New York's Department of Correctional Services, was elected chairman. He takes over from **Sue Bloomberg**, to whom P.B.B. is grateful for her guidance, commitment, and continuing support.

CALIFORNIA STARS

On June 10, P.B.B. supporters, many accompanied by their four-legged pals, took San Francisco's Glen Park Canyon by storm, raising \$6,400. It was the first annual Picnic for Pawsability, a benefit barbecue spearheaded by **Sophie O'Shaughnessy**, sister of a founding P.B.B. board member. According to Sophie, her involvement was "inspired by my relationship with my own dog, Duke, and the central role he plays in my life. I live in awe about how much dogs can do for people, and P.B.B. offers a most moving example of this."

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

The stars were certainly aligned in P.B.B.'s favor, as more than 200 people came to learn about the program and enjoy the sunshine, homemade salads, cakes, burgers, live music, and raffle items—all graciously donated by Sophie's neighbors and local merchants. P.B.B.'s impact has clearly been felt on the West Coast, where a number of its dogs work daily as explosive-detection canines.

In honor of the passion, time, and effort put forth by Sophie and her friends, puppy Kayla entered the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in August, to be raised as a service dog for the disabled. Quentin, named for San Quentin State Prison in Marin County, which houses a program to rehabilitate shelter dogs, will soon follow.

FORWARD THINKING

Terrell Brown, P.B.B.'s summer intern in 2004 and 2005, is making strides towards his goal of working in the criminal justice field. A student at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, N.Y., Terrell graduated on November 8 as an auxiliary police officer for the 32nd Precinct after completing a 14-week course.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

This summer, the inmate puppy-raisers at the Bedford Hills prison took part in an annual program for children of women incarcerated there. The kids stay with host families in the Bedford Hills community, coming to the facility each day to spend much-needed time with their moms. The puppy-raisers taught the children and their mothers about service-dog training, and showed them simple commands such as "sit," "down," "kiss," and "shake." The experience gave the children a chance to interact with dogs (which many haven't had), gave the dogs some experience with kids (ditto), and was fun for everyone involved.



Gloria Gilbert Stoga and A.T.F. K-9 handler Rick Dean (both seated), with the West Point group.



Glenn Goord, Elise O'Shaughnessy, and Matthew Cuvillo.



Guests watch the new P.B.B. video.



Lorraine Bracco and Kathy McGilvery.

THE PERFECT TENTH

Having been in front of a camera since I was a teenager, I am crucially aware of how important image is," actress Lorraine Bracco told the crowd at Puppies Behind Bars's tenth anniversary party on October 24. "Image conveys what words cannot; image makes a first impression and leaves a lasting one."

The atrium of the Olympic Tower in midtown Manhattan was packed with supporters and volunteers from every aspect of the program. You might have spotted Judy Goldman, whose beloved guide-dog, Lucie, one of P.B.B.'s first graduates, died this year. Or longtime P.B.B. spokesman Willi Richards, with his guide of six years, Victoria. N.Y.P.D. detective Steve Lenoce and his bomb-sniffing canine partner, Duke, were on hand; and a group of officers and cadets, part of the latest P.B.B. initiative, had come down from the West Point military academy. Even some of P.B.B.'s homebound senior volunteers made it out for the occasion.

Glenn Goord, the new chairman of P.B.B.'s board, could be seen joking with Brian Fischer, who took over from Goord last year as commissioner of New York State's correctional facilities. Aidan Quinn, familiar from a slew of big movies, was checking out the scene. Oh, and was that Glenn Close, star of *Damages*, talking about her stepson's new venture, FetchDog.com? (See story on page 2.)

The chatter stopped as Bracco introduced a new video about P.B.B.'s work, which showed just how powerful images can be. Guests were visibly moved by the scenes of prison inmates bonding with the puppies they raise, interspersed with clips of P.B.B. founder Gloria

Gilbert Stoga, instructors Jan Brady and Carl Rothe, and prison deputy superintendent Jim Hayden describing the effort that goes into training service dogs and explosive-detection canines, as well as the impact of the program.

Bracco, whose niece, Whitney, recently joined P.B.B.'s board, had one more piece of business when the video was over. It was her job to introduce the evening's honoree, Kathy McGilvery. For the past ten years, McGilvery, a graphic designer, has donated her services to P.B.B. "She has produced every newsletter, every invitation, every calendar, and every brochure that we've ever distributed," Bracco noted. "Over the years, Kathy has not only won awards for the work she has done on our behalf, she has also, repeatedly, refused to accept any payment."

Given her track record and commitment to the organization, McGilvery was the obvious choice to design another celebration of P.B.B.'s first decade: the book *Puppies Behind Bars | Photographs*, a stunning collection of images by Chris Makos and Paul Solberg, with a foreword by Gilbert Stoga. The book was on sale at the party, yet another example of the talent behind P.B.B.

For those who, like McGilvery, have watched the organization grow from a great idea to a successful non-profit—now operating in seven prisons in three states, with hundreds of dogs serving the blind, the handicapped, and law enforcement—the evening created its own powerful image: a reflection of how far P.B.B. has come, how much it has accomplished, and the infinite potential that lies ahead.

DONATION FORM

I would like to sponsor and name a puppy (minimum donation: \$3000.)

Please accept my donation for:

1 puppy's weekend visit to NYC (\$35) A sleeping crate for 1 puppy (\$85)

Leashes and bowls for 1 puppy (\$50) Other amount

Please charge my credit card:

Visa MasterCard AmEx

(Please list name as it appears on card. List billing address.)

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Add my friend to your mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS | 10 East 40th Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10016

STEVI'S MISSION: HEAL

Bill Campbell made it home from Iraq. Sort of. The 46-year-old veteran is suffering from traumatic brain injury, acute post-traumatic stress disorder, and major depression. He has nightmares, headaches, startle responses, fear, hallucinations, and memory problems. He can barely stand being around people, so won't go out except for doctor's appointments, or very quick trips to the mail box or grocery store. He can't work at the job he left behind, as a biologist for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Things are a little easier when his wife is around, or when he's at the barn where the horse that is part of his therapy is kept, "because there is nobody there except this old Korean War veteran," he says. And more help is on the way, with the arrival of Stevi, a 17-month-old yellow Lab, the first service dog Puppies Behind Bars will donate to a wounded veteran under its new "Dog Tags" program.

Describing his situation today, Campbell shows the heart and courage that took him to Iraq in 2003. He had been a commissioned officer in Field Artillery for ten years, but re-enlisted as a sergeant. "Field Artillery officers served in Iraq in an administrative capacity, and I did not want to sit behind a desk. I wanted to help Iraqis and help bring an American or two back alive. I felt being a trained, older, wiser cavalry sergeant put me in a better position to make a difference. I think it worked that way, too."

Bill says he was "officially" injured twice: "once when an I.E.D. exploded, causing shrapnel damage to my hand, and once when I received a concussion from a car bomb which was detonated near my position." He was treated for these injuries at a battalion aid station in Baghdad, then returned to duty. But repeated explosions took their toll, though it wasn't until he got back to the U.S. that he ended up in the Seattle Veteran's Administration hospital, being treated for brain damage and P.T.S.D.

On the other side of the country, Stevi, who was raised by inmates in the Edna Mahan and Mid-Orange prisons, has been getting extra socialization once a week with a computer-science professor at West Point,



Peggy. The wife of a soldier on active duty, she says it's especially meaningful to her to be working with a dog destined for an Iraq veteran. She also rides horses, and has gotten Stevi used to being around them. The dog's initial reaction to Peggy's horse, Renegade, was to sniff him, she recalls:

"They went nose to nose, and it was fine." As for the cadets she teaches, "They love having a dog there. They're freshmen: for many of them it's their first time away from home, and they miss their pets."

Stevi is well loved in Peggy's office area, too: "She is so low-key. But she always seems to have one eye on you, to know the environment, even when she's relaxed. She gets very attached."

When Stevi and Bill finally meet for their two weeks of training, in February, the question will be just who is looking out for whom. "My feeling is that Stevi will make me feel more comfortable," Bill says. "Not

just because I'll feel like she is watching my back but because I will be watching out for her. That, I think, to some degree, will take my mind off what is going on around me. I think if I can reduce the degree to which I obsess over my environment, that will make a difference."

"I am thankful that Puppies Behind Bars exists," he adds. "It is an amazing program. Every person that I have had the good fortune to interact with has been wonderful and has shown a passion for what they are doing. Further, I have been made to feel appreciated and that makes me feel very good."

Bill has helped P.B.B. founder and president Gloria Gilbert Stoga develop a questionnaire for other veterans who might benefit from having a service dog. "I feel close to Bill," Gilbert Stoga says. "He is the first soldier from this war that I've gotten to know, and I feel proud of him and proud that we can help him a bit." There's no question that everyone involved with P.B.B. shares her pride, as Bill and Stevi pioneer its new Dog Tags program.

Puppy Platoon

continued from page 1

cream, and more pitching-in from community members ("People I ran into in the PX wanted to do whatever they could, from stuffing fliers to picking up P.B.B. staff," says Amy), but "the Puppy Platoon," as the cadet dog-sitters are called, was soon in full swing.

Meanwhile, Nick Trerotola, company commander of both West Point's hospital and its wounded unit, has seen canine visitors make a big difference to the men under his care. Jana recalls visiting the W.T.U. with Lucky, a yellow Lab she puppy-sits: "Nick brought in one of the soldiers," Jana recalls, "and the soldier's face just lit up. His P.T.S.D. [post-traumatic stress disorder] was pretty bad, so bad he wouldn't talk to people." When the soldier had a relapse, Trerotola even asked if Lucky could make a special, unscheduled visit.

So Jana and Denis went to the prison to pick up the dog, and ended up attending a training class. "We had an interchange with the inmates that was really great," she says. "Then we took Lucky back to see the soldier

with P.T.S.D., and he really opened up, petting the dog the whole time. Just having a dog there made it so much easier for him to interact with people."

The soldier in question will be getting a P.B.B.-trained companion of his own, thanks to Dog Tags. Later that month, Trerotola took him and a few others from the wounded unit to the Mid-Orange prison, to sit in on a class. "He said it was awesome," Jana reports. "The inmates wanted to know all about them, their injuries, their time in Iraq. Some of the inmates were veterans, too, so that was a whole different dimension."

Awesome is the word for it: cadets and inmates connecting over a shared mission—the formation of dogs like Lucky. Even someone visiting West Point, like *Sopranos* star James Gandolfini, immediately gets what a difference one puppy can make. After meeting Gandolfini at the wounded unit, and telling him about P.B.B., the Fajardos asked if the actor would sign the dog's training jacket. He was happy to oblige. "Lucky," he wrote, "Don't screw up. James Gandolfini." Now that's an order.

The **Puppy-Power** Shopping Guide

At year's end, many people lend a hand to P.B.B. while they do their holiday gift buying. There are lots of ways to help, some more direct than others, but all very much appreciated by P.B.B. staff and pups. In the spirit of the season, consider the following:

P.B.B. HOLIDAY AND NOTE CARDS

Reach out to all your friends for \$2 a card. Or donate \$10 (minimum) in honor of someone and P.B.B. will send that person a card with a special enclosure explaining that your gift has purchased a collar, leash, or bowl for one of our newest pups. It's the perfect present for somebody who already "has it all." With a classic photo of a tiny puppy flopping across a shoe, P.B.B. notecards, at \$15 for ten, are another sure-fire hit. Go to <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> for details.



PUPPY PINUPS 2008

P.B.B.'s third annual calendar is here: Twelve months of compelling photos bring puppy-love home. These stylish calendars are designed by the award-winning Kathy McGilvery, with portraits by Valerie Shaff, Jill Enfield, and other talented photographers. At a price of \$15, you can afford to stuff one in every stocking. To order, go to <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> or call 212-680-9562.



CLICK WITH CHARITY Do your online shopping through igive.com or dogreatstuff.com. These websites are free to join and

feature hundreds of stores including Barnes & Noble, LL Bean, Gap, Neiman Marcus, and PetCo. At no additional cost, a portion of everything you spend can be donated to P.B.B. In essence, you are giving two gifts for the price of one. (So go ahead, buy yourself that sweater, too!) And whether

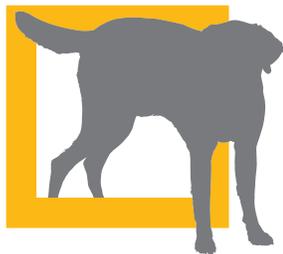
you're looking for recipes, decorating ideas, or movie show-times, go to **Goodsearch.com**. A partner with Yahoo, Good Search is a search engine with a simple concept. Each time you use it, money is generated for the charity of your choice: Puppies Behind Bars, we hope.

NAME A PUP, CHANGE A LIFE

Puppies Behind Bars offers the opportunity to sponsor pups, an unforgettable holiday gift for special friends, family members, or important clients. Sponsorship costs \$3,000 and entitles the gift recipient to name a puppy, and to receive quarterly photos and updates on its progress throughout the 12 to 20 months it is being raised. Written by the inmate puppy-raisers, the update letters are distributed through our Manhattan office. Their correspondence allows the sponsor to watch both the puppy and its raiser grow, earn trust, and become assets to society. Call 212-680-9562 for more details.

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS | PHOTOGRAPHS

A gorgeous coffee-table book, ideal for dog-lovers. See page 3 for more information.



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