

# FIGHTING CHANCE

Volume 19, Issue 1

## Letter from LCA President Chris DeRose

Dear Friend of Animals,

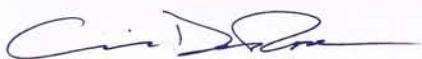
This year was a demanding and successful one for us here at Last Chance for Animals and I am happy to report a great win for the animals. The notorious Class "B" animal dealer C.C. Baird was finally convicted of civil and criminal charges stemming from our undercover investigations and was **PUT OUT OF BUSINESS FOR GOOD!** His sentencing for criminal charges is due very soon, and should include jail time and steep fines. This victory is sweet justice for the thousands of animals Baird abused and killed during the years he operated as a Class "B" dealer. We are very happy to add C.C. Baird's name to the "busted" list of Class "B" dealers. LCA will not stop until we bust all Class "B" dealers guilty of stealing companion animals.

LCA also traveled to Louisiana to help rescue animals left behind in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Abandoned, scared and starving dogs and cats – companion animals to many folks who lost everything – needed help desperately. Being in the hurricane's "hot zone" was an intense experience LCA's rescue team will never forget.

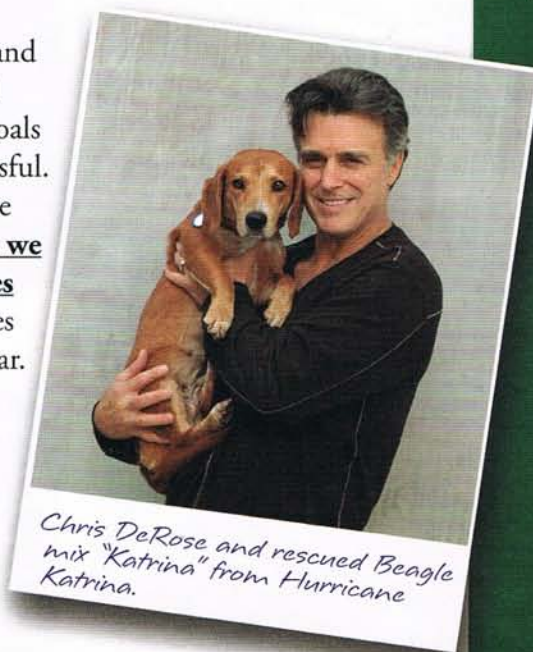
We embarked on our "Elephant Sanctuaries – Not Captivity!" campaign to get the L.A. Zoo elephants, Ruby, Gita and Billy relocated to sanctuaries. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa stated in his 2005 election campaign that "a zoo is not an appropriate place for an animal as large as an elephant ... We need to move the elephants out." We are working hard to raise awareness of this issue and we plan to hold the Mayor to his campaign promise!

Please read about these campaigns and more inside and find out what you can do to help. We hope you will continue to support LCA in 2006. We have many goals for the coming year and need your help to be successful. You are an important part of LCA. Without you, we wouldn't be there for the animals. **Please remember we are out in the trenches fighting for lasting changes for the animals!** Thank you so much and best wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday and coming year.

For the Animals,



Chris DeRose  
President and Founder



Chris DeRose and rescued Beagle mix "Katrina" from Hurricane Katrina.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Class "B" Dealer C.C. Baird CONVICTED!!!!
- Hurricane Katrina Rescue Efforts
- Elephant Sanctuaries - Not Captivity! Campaign Gathers Momentum
- Puppy Mills Targeted in Pennsylvania
- The Pet Safety and Protection Act/Pet Protection Amendment
- Great Gift Ideas and Ways to Give





# Elephant Sanctuaries – Not Captivity! Campaign Continues

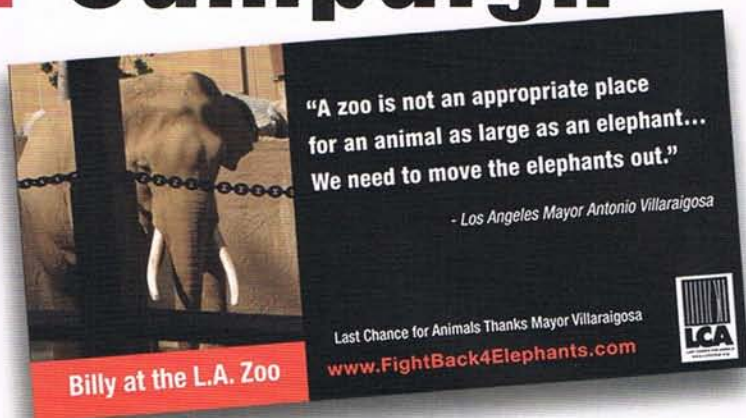
LCA continues to focus attention on Ruby, Gita and Billy, the three elephants currently housed at the Los Angeles Zoo. LCA is fighting for the elephants to be relocated to sanctuaries and does not support the proposed elephant exhibit expansion from  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre to just less than two acres at a cost of \$16 million.

Elephants do not belong in captivity as they suffer tremendously from ailments rarely seen in the wild and have much shorter life spans. Their joints and feet suffer from standing on hard surfaces and is the #1 cause of death/euthanasia of captive elephants. No zoo can adequately provide for the needs of elephants; they deserve to be relocated to sanctuaries where they can have free choice, **the space they need**, the chance to bond with other elephants and live out their lives in peace.

Mayor Villaraigosa has temporarily stopped the funding for the elephant exhibit renovation and has called for a full review of the "housing and health needs" of the elephants. He has directed the City Administrative Officer to conduct a study on the elephants which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. **We hope this study will lay the groundwork for permanently closing the exhibit and relocating the elephants to sanctuaries.**



*Join LCA's Elephant Sanctuaries – Not Captivity! campaign and help get the L.A. Zoo elephants relocated to sanctuaries!*



*LCA's billboard on the streets of Los Angeles.*

Mayor Villaraigosa's actions are a huge step in the right direction, but there is still work to be done! In order for Villaraigosa to act on any pro-elephant recommendations by the City Administrative Officer, he needs strong support from the public and Los Angeles City Council!

Go to [www.FightBack4Elephants.com](http://www.FightBack4Elephants.com) to find out how you can help!



## Join LCA's Fight for the L.A. Zoo Elephants

Wear the "Free the LA 3" t-shirt and the elephant bracelet imprinted with The Elephant Sanctuary's website, [www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com). Call 310-271-6096 x 26 or go to [www.LCAanimal.org/merchandise.htm](http://www.LCAanimal.org/merchandise.htm)







## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fur-Free Friday 2005

The Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year and has grown to become one of the most widely attended annual protests of the animal rights movement. LCA organized and led a protest down the streets of Beverly Hills, California ending up at Neiman Marcus, one of the country's largest purveyors of fur.

Peaceful demonstrators, guided by police escort, passed out leaflets educating passers-by about the horrors of the



fur trade. LCA's Animal News Van followed the procession playing video footage showing the suffering fur-bearing animals endure. To view photos of this year's event and to find out what you can do to help abolish the fur trade, go to [www.FurFreeFriday.com](http://www.FurFreeFriday.com).

### Pet Protection Amendment\*

With the August 2005 conviction of Class "B" dealer C.C. Baird, Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) was moved in September to introduce Amendment 1729, called the Pet Protection Amendment, to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. This amendment would help protect our nation's companion animals by prohibiting federal funding to research facilities that bought animals from Class "B" dealers. (Class "B" animal dealers collect dogs and cats from "random sources" and routinely violate the Animal Welfare Act.) Although the amendment passed in the Senate, it was not approved in the final stages of conference hearings.

However, there is GOOD NEWS as the conference committee stated they strongly support strict enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, including regulatory oversight of the trade by Class "B" animal dealers. They ordered the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report by March 2006 on enforcement actions taken in the regulation of Class "B" animal dealers including the frequency of inspection of the dealers.

*\*Not to be confused with the Pet Safety and Protection Act*

*"The purposes of the regulations under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) are to insure no stolen animals get into research channels. If these regulations are not adhered to, the safeguards no longer exist, and the purpose of the AWA is defeated."*

– Chris DeRose

## Pet Theft Awareness Day 2005

Last Chance for Animals launched the First Annual National Pet Theft Awareness Day in 1988 on Valentine's Day to memorialize the nearly two million



*Chris DeRose addresses the crowd on Pet Theft Awareness Day.*

companion animals that are stolen each year and sold to research facilities, dog fighting rings or puppy mills. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005, LCA held the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pet Theft Awareness Day at Barrington Dog Park in California. Over 250 animal protection organizations and individuals joined LCA on this day by holding Pet Theft Awareness Days in other cities and writing letters in support of the Pet Safety & Protection Act.

Join LCA and our nationwide network of organizations and individuals on this day. To find out what you can do about pet theft and information on becoming a participant in Pet Theft Awareness Day 2006, please send an email to [campaigns@LCAnimal.org](mailto:campaigns@LCAnimal.org) or visit [www.StolenPets.com](http://www.StolenPets.com).

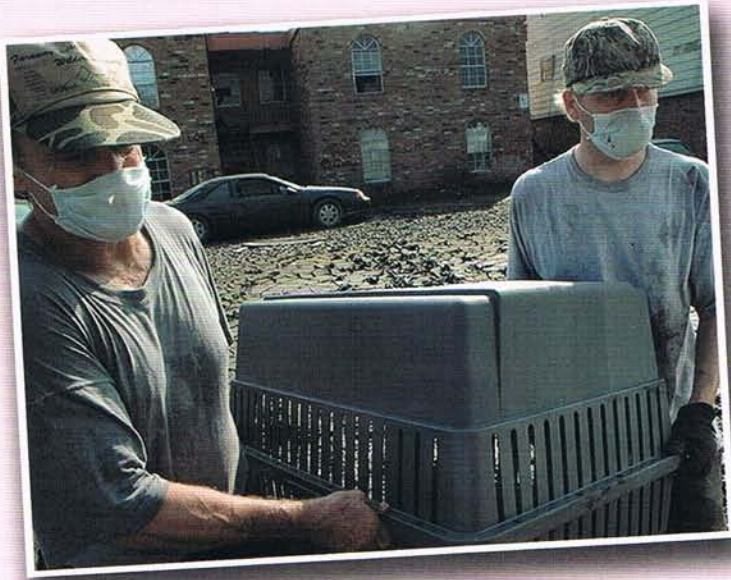


*Pamela Anderson lends her image to bring awareness to the issue of Pet Theft.*



# LCA Rescues Animals in Hurricane Katrina's

## "HOT ZONE"



LCA's President Chris DeRose organized and led one of the first rescue teams admitted into the devastated "hot zone" area of St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, one of the areas hardest hit by the storm.

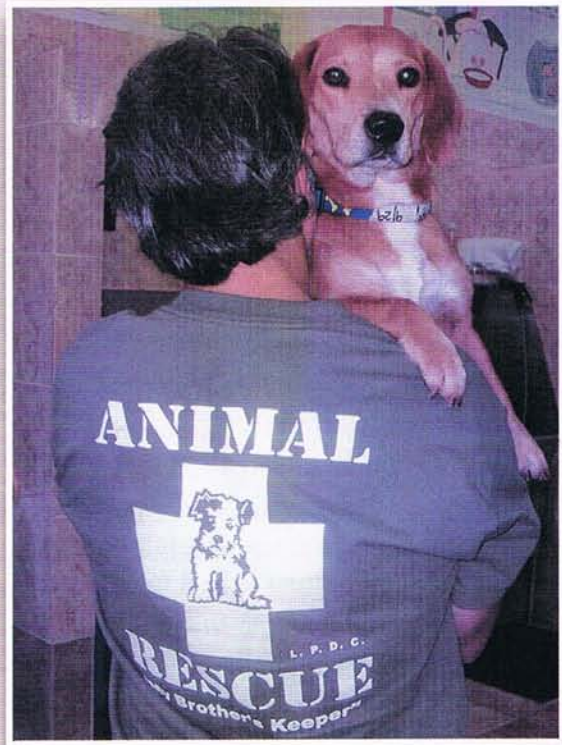
LCA's rescue team joined forces with Best Friends Animal Society's triage operation situated at the St. Francis of Assisi animal sanctuary in Tylertown, Mississippi. LCA's rescue team drove two hours back and forth each day to enter St. Bernard Parish, where approximately 70,000 people and countless animals used to live.

LCA went to work, donning protective gear to trudge through muck and sludge, searching for animals left stranded on the streets or trapped in homes, buildings and backyards. The rescue team tirelessly walked and drove up and down streets, calling and whistling out to animals... waiting to hear a bark or any kind of response. When not on the streets, the team cared for the hundreds and hundreds of rescued animals at the sanctuary by cleaning out cages and doing whatever was needed.

LCA's rescue team fell in love with all the rescued animals, but one little Beagle mix really grabbed our hearts. She was rescued from an area where buildings had been flooded over the second story. Somehow she managed to survive four weeks in the toxic sludge of St. Bernard Parish, a

terrifying ordeal no one should have to go through. Aptly named "Katrina" by the rescue team, Chris DeRose has committed to fostering her until her guardians are found.

The reunions that happened on a daily basis between guardians and their companion animals at the sanctuary made the hard work worthwhile. A lot of people lost all they had... but thanks to the efforts of rescue teams like LCA's, they were able to reclaim a missing part of their family.



*Chris holds "Katrina."*

To read more about LCA's Katrina rescue efforts and to see more photos, please visit [http://www.lcanimal.org/cmpgn/cmpgn\\_026.htm](http://www.lcanimal.org/cmpgn/cmpgn_026.htm).

LCA is determined to help ensure that situations like what happened after Hurricane Katrina – families not being able to take their beloved animals with them to safety – never happens again. In the coming year, we will pressure politicians to instigate plans of evacuation that also includes animals.



*Chris DeRose searching for animals.*



## What You Can Do To Help The Hurricane Katrina Animals:



*Rescued Beagle.*

1.) Please support HR 3858, the "Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards of 2005". When passed, this bill will require local and state emergency preparedness authorities to include in their evacuation plans details on how they will accommodate companion animals. HR 3858 has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

Express your support of HR 3858 by contacting the following:

- a.) Your U.S. House representative – find your rep at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
- b.) Bill Shuster – Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Development,  
Public Buildings and Emergency Management  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2431 (ph)  
202-225-2486 (fax)

## 2.) Help Reunite Companion Animals with their Guardians



There are many animals that desperately need to be reunited with their guardians! Rescued animals and lost animals are posted on [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Please visit this site to find your lost animals, or to help others reunite with theirs!

*Hurricane victim shows her appreciation, "You are angels. Thank God for you."*

## Save the Mountain Gorillas Campaign

Mountain gorillas live in the forests in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire). They are one of the world's rarest animals and sadly, an endangered species now. There are only about 650 mountain gorillas left in the world, and approx 300 of them are in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.



*Momma and Baby Gorilla in Bwindi's Impenetrable Forest, Uganda*

In January 2006, LCA will embark on supporting the gorilla conservation efforts in Bwindi's Impenetrable Forest. The Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) is responsible for the gorilla's day-to-day protection. The rangers, trackers and wardens of the UWA are the front line in gorilla conservation, working hard to preserve the remaining gorilla population with ecotourism and escorted gorilla treks to see the habituated gorilla families. These treks are very restricted and help to fund future preservation efforts of the mountain gorillas.

To find out about gorilla trekking in Uganda, visit <http://www.uwa.or.ug/gorilla.html>.



*One of Rwanda's Inquisitive Juvenile Gorillas.*





# LCA Targets Shutting Down Puppy Mills

## Second Annual Puppy Mill Awareness Day

"It's a doomed business," says Chris DeRose about the puppy mills operating in the heart of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and across the country.

In September 2005, LCA was in Lancaster, PA, known as the "puppy mill capital of the east coast", holding the Second Annual Puppy Mill Awareness Day to demonstrate and raise public awareness of the puppy mill industry, a cruel business that churns out 500,000 dogs a year, adding to the serious problem of pet overpopulation. The dogs are used as "breeding machines," producing litter after litter of puppies. When the dogs are no longer able to breed, they are disposed of and often auctioned off to research facilities where further tortures await.

The dogs are given the absolute minimum standard of care – and no veterinary care, no decent food, insufficient water and no bedding. Puppy millers care nothing about the health or well being of the dogs. If a dog dies ... there is another to take its place.

A lot of people have heard of puppy mills, but don't really know what goes on inside them. LCA vows to expose and end this dirty business, and our protest in Lancaster was a step in that direction. Besides the march, we've started a billboard campaign to raise public awareness in the



*LCA's Mobile Billboard in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.*

Lancaster area about what is going on right under the public's nose. If people don't know about a problem, it will never be solved.

Please join LCA in our puppy mill campaign. For more information, go to [www.BanPuppyMills.com](http://www.BanPuppyMills.com).

### How You Can Help End Puppy Mills!

- Don't buy an animal from a pet store. Go to your local shelter or rescue organization and adopt.
- Pressure government officials to ban the puppy mill business. Write letters and make phone calls. If we put enough pressure on politicians to change and enforce laws, we can make a difference.
- Boycott Lancaster County, "the puppy mill capital of the east coast."
- Talk to others and educate them about puppy mills. Word of mouth is a powerful weapon!
- Organize and hold your own peaceful puppy mill demonstration.
- Help us help the animals by supporting LCA so we will continue to have the resources to raise public awareness and fight puppy mills.



*Puppy Mill dog cages.*



# VICTORY!

# GUILITY

## Class "B" Dealer C.C. Baird CONVICTED!

JUSTICE IS FINALLY SERVED! C.C. Baird, the nation's largest USDA-licensed Class "B" animal dealer and pet theft ring operator, was convicted of civil and felony criminal charges in 2005. Baird's criminal and civil case comprised the largest multi-agency (federal, state and local) investigation of animal abuse in U.S. history, which was prompted by LCA's undercover investigation at Baird's Martin Creek Kennels. After LCA's Special Investigative Unit handed over documentation to the U.S. Attorney's office, Baird was subsequently charged with hundreds of violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

On January 28th, 2005, a consent decision was reached in Baird's civil case; Baird's USDA license was permanently revoked and he was slapped with a fine of \$262,700 (which he paid!), the largest fine ever imposed by the USDA/APHIS.

Baird also pled guilty on August 30, 2005, to felony charges of conspiracy to launder money in an operation involving the sale of dogs and cats to research laboratories. Baird's guilty plea stems from his role in mail fraud, in which he violated the Animal Welfare Act by transferring dogs and cats to research facilities with false acquisition records through his facility, Martin Creek Kennels. The charge against Baird is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of more than \$5 million. Sentencing for Baird's criminal charges is due by the end of 2005.

**Baird and Martin Creek Kennels are finally out of business!** Baird will no longer torture, kill, abuse, steal or sell companion animals ever again.

**"Pet theft is organized crime  
sanctioned by the USDA."**

– Chris DeRose

## What You Can Do:

There are still 17 Class "B" animal dealers operating in the United States. LCA is committed to making sure there are none! Support the Pet Safety and Protection Act to make sure Class "B" dealers cannot sell "random source" animals to research facilities. Go to [www.StolenPets.com](http://www.StolenPets.com) to find out more about pet theft and what you can do to help get the Pet Safety and Protection Act passed.

## The Pet Safety and Protection Act S.451

This year's conviction of violations of the Animal Welfare Act by Class "B" dealer C.C. Baird has also been instrumental in bringing much needed attention to the Pet Safety and Protection Act which was introduced in Congress by Senator Daniel Akaka in February 2005. Never before have we had such interest and support behind this bill. Baird's case is being used to gather momentum from supporters and to inform congress about this legislation. We are determined 2006 will be the year the Act is passed into law, which will ensure stolen, lost and unclaimed companion animals will not end up in the hands of Class "B" dealers to be sold to research facilities.



*Animals will no longer be tortured at Baird's  
Martin Creek Kennels.*



## Great Gift Ideas

### Gift Memberships

Spread compassion by giving a gift membership to LCA. For a minimum donation of \$25, LCA will send a personalized gift card to your chosen loved one, friend or business colleague.

### Shop for Gifts and Help the Animals!

LCA has partnered with various companies to give animals a FIGHTING CHANCE! A percentage of your purchases will be donated to LCA.

### Access these sites through

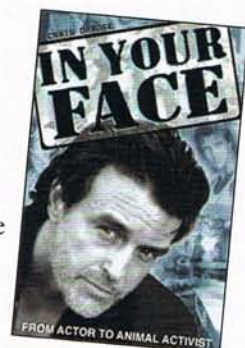
<http://www.lcanimal.org/donate.htm>

- **Amazon** – where you can do all your shopping
- **Downbound** – environmentally-friendly vegan products

### Access these sites directly:

- **www.IGive.com** – has over 1,000 merchants
- **www.FoeFur.com** – cruelty-free handbags

**"In Your Face"** – Autobiography by LCA's President & Founder, Chris DeRose. Chris' amazing story is a compelling, passionate narration that inspires people to become advocates for animals. \$24.00 includes shipping.



To order holiday gifts, go to [www.LCAAnimal.org](http://www.LCAAnimal.org) and click on the donation and/or merchandise tabs, call 310/271-6096 x 26 or email [development@LCAAnimal.org](mailto:development@LCAAnimal.org). Use your credit card to ensure timely delivery.

## More Ways You Can Help

### Automatic Monthly/Quarterly Giving

Please sign up to donate regularly to LCA via automatic debits to your bank account or credit card. Automatic donations are convenient for you and helps LCA establish a steady income and minimize fundraising expenses. To sign up, go to [www.lcanimal.org/donate/auto.htm](http://www.lcanimal.org/donate/auto.htm)

### Workplace Giving/Matching Gifts

Increase your donation to LCA by asking your employer to match your gift to LCA. Contact human resources at your work for information.

### Create a Living Legacy for the Animals!

When LCA is named as a beneficiary in your will, you make an important gift that will give animals a FIGHTING CHANCE! You can also give to LCA in other ways such as life insurance policies and retirement accounts. See your tax advisor for details to create lasting support for LCA.

### Autos 4 Animals

Help put an end to animal cruelty by donating your used auto and other vehicles to LCA. It's quick, easy and tax-deductible. Visit [www.Autos4Animals.org](http://www.Autos4Animals.org) to fill out a vehicle donation form or call 310/271-6096 x 26.



### Help Raise Awareness by Using LCA Checks

Order LCA checks, address labels and checkbook covers from Message!Products! Each check is imprinted with LCA's logo and the message, "This is not a research tool!" Royalties of every order goes directly to LCA. To order visit [www.MessageProducts.com](http://www.MessageProducts.com) or call 800/243-2565.



8033 Sunset Blvd. #835  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
(310) 271-6096  
Fax: (310) 271-1890  
1 (888) 88-ANIMAL  
[www.LCAAnimal.org](http://www.LCAAnimal.org)

*Yes, I want to support LCA's mission to end animal suffering!*

Enclosed is my donation of:  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card# \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For my convenience,

Please sign me up for LCA's automatic giving. I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Monthly** or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Quarterly**. (Please enclose a voided check or fill out your credit card information above.)

Please check here to receive LCA's Planned Giving catalog.

Please check here if you **do not** wish to receive a receipt for your donation.

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