

Direct Rein

Volume 17, #4

CDCTA Newsletter

APRIL 2020

Like extended snow days with no snow, and a little scarier....

That's what the world seems like right now. I never thought I would get bored being at home, but I admit to a teeny bit of stir-craziness as the Stay at Home order enters its third week, with no comforting end in sight.

I am lucky, as are many of my horsey friends, to live on a patch of land which allows me to self-quarantine and still get out and play with my horses, and walk in the creek, and garden, and enjoy this beautiful spring weather. But even with all that the days sometimes begin to drag a little bit with no company to share it with.

And so to the time-honored tradition of spring cleaning, when the accumulated dust and grime of the winter can no longer hide from the sunlight, and when the excess stuff that has managed to find its way into your house despite your best efforts can be moved on down the road, or maybe cleaned up and repurposed for another use. Spring is also the time for home remodeling projects and in a frenzy of activity last weekend I finally took down all the horse show ribbons lining my study as preparation for painting the room and replacing the World's Oldest Berber Carpet, forty years and counting.

The ribbons have been up almost since we moved into the place in 1993, and they have been a constant visible reminder of equestrian triumphs of previous years. People are impressed by the display, and I don't try to temper this by pointing out to them that many of those first placed ribbons were a result of my being the only entrant in the class. The blues make a lovely display but some of my most treasured satin mementos are from hard-fought events where I was excited to come back alive, never mind finishing in seventh place. I have always been very diligent in recording the information on the back of my ribbons as far as who I rode, and what the class was, and there are lovely little surprises when I turn one of these old mementos over and find that this was a ribbon that I won riding my old Thoroughbred mare Limerick, or the first one I ever won on the back of the infamous Wolfsfalle. Also a benefit of aging: blue ribbons turn purplish after time so you can always tell people it was a first place one!

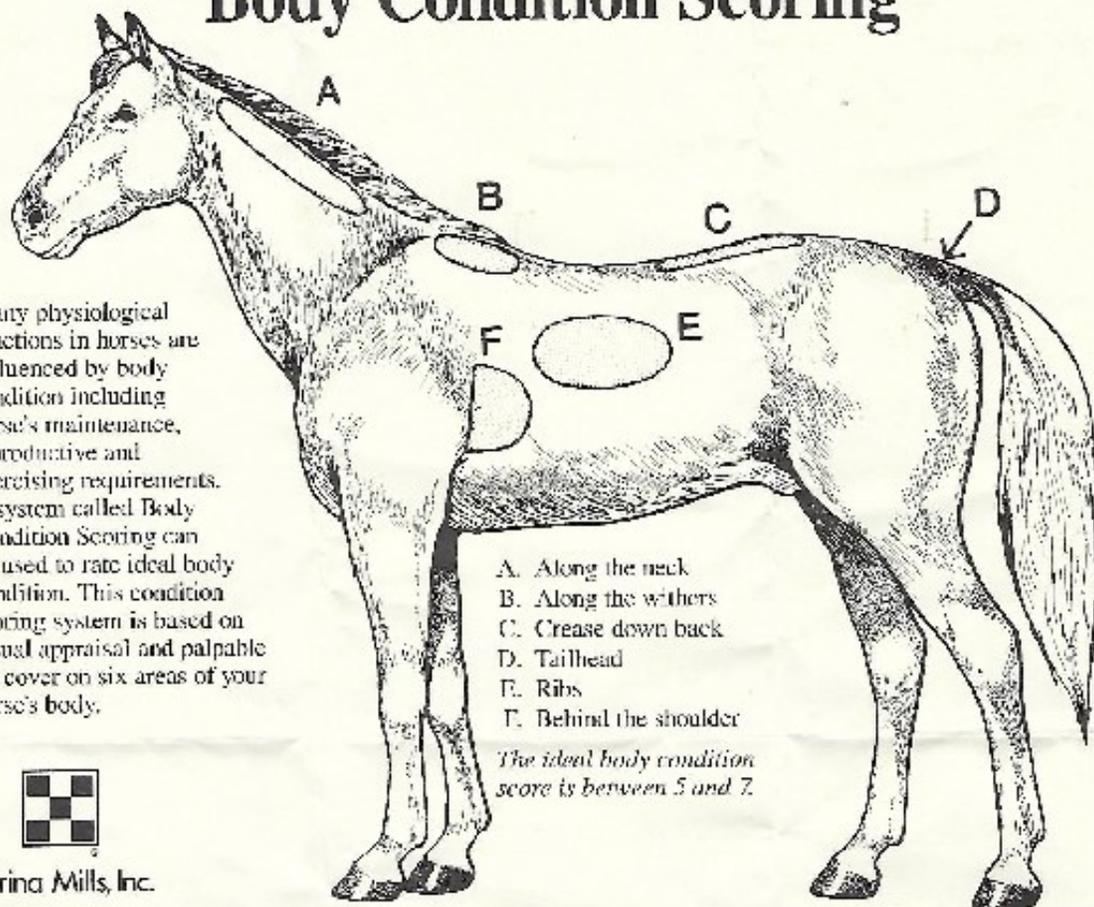
I also found some hidden treasures among the oldest, dustiest section that brought back memories of events that had completely escaped my mind. I have started taking photos of some of these, as ribbons don't last forever and I want to be able to jog my increasingly feeble mind when I want to relive the glory days with my beloved equine partners. Look for these in upcoming newsletters when I need to fill some space. Do you have a memorable ribbon, or trophy, and a story to go with it? Send me the photo and the blurb and we will put it in when we can.

The walls of the room first looked disturbingly barren, like a Whoville house after the Grinch made his Christmas Eve raid. But as I have gotten used to them I have started to rethink putting them all up again. They collect dust, and maybe it is time I focus on my horse career from this point on, rather than living forever in the past. I know many people who show all the time don't even collect their ribbons anymore since they have so many...but it seems a shame not to take home something for all of your hard work and considerable expense.

Ah, who am I kidding. Of course I'm going to clean them up and make an even better display this time around...and continue to impress those who step into my front door and look into the den and say, "Oh my gosh, did you win all those ribbons?"

Yes, I did. And I am no less proud of them now than I was when I won them, many years and several horses ago. Take pride in your accomplishments! *-Beth Hussey*

Body Condition Scoring



Many physiological functions in horses are influenced by body condition including horse's maintenance, reproductive and exercising requirements. A system called Body Condition Scoring can be used to rate ideal body condition. This condition scoring system is based on visual appraisal and palpable fat cover on six areas of your horse's body.

- A. Along the neck
- B. Along the withers
- C. Crease down back
- D. Tailhead
- E. Ribs
- F. Behind the shoulder

The ideal body condition score is between 5 and 7.



Purina Mills, Inc.

Description of Individual Condition Scores (Score 1-9)

1. Poor: Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae (hip joints), and ischia (lower pelvic bones) projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.

2. Very Thin: Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae (hip joints) and ischia (lower pelvic bones) prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure fairly discernible.

3. Thin: Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernible; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae

(hip joints) appear rounded but easily discernible; tuber ischia (lower pelvic bones) not rising high side; withers, shoulders and neck accentuated.

4. Moderately Thin: Slight ridge along side; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt around hip joints; ewage (hip joints) not discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.

5. Moderate: Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not usually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.

6. Moderately Fleishy: May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs spongy; fat

around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along the side of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.

7. Fleishy: May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.

8. Fat: Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.

9. Extremely Fat: Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing over ribs; bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck; fat along inner thighs may rub together; flank filled with fat.



Successful FEI dressage rider/trainer available for lessons/training in Dressage, western Dressage, western pleasure and hunt seat pleasure. Exciting news!! OPENING SOON-new professional boarding, training and lesson facility. Contact Ann C. McGruder 573-489-1317 (text or call) now to reserve your space!

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Pilates Instructor
573.356.7156
shelley@limitlesspilates.com
2718 Forum Blvd., Suite 4A
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Contact Judy Owens at violet3@centurytel.

This newsletter is published monthly by the Columbia Dressage and Combined Training Association.

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Secretary: Beth Hussey
Treasurer: Amy Stapleton
Member at Large: Kim Kriekhaus

Questions regarding submissions and content should be directed to Beth Hussey at (573) 808-6897 or eshussey@gmail.com.

Submissions may be sent via email or mail to 655 North Route O, Rocheport, MO 65279.

Submissions are due by the last day of the month before publication.

Our website is www.cdcta.org for late-breaking news. Photographs should be submitted in JPEG format.

For membership information, please contact Kim Kriekhaus at (573) 442-3039 or email kriekhausk@gmail.com

Veterinary Integrative Medicine
Janet Rettenmaier, DVM
Dr.Janet@VeterinaryIntegrativeMedicine.com
www.VeterinaryIntegrativeMedicine.com
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Make checks payable to CDCTA.

Oh how will we fill the pages of our lives and the newsletter, while the quarantine is on.....

Here's an idea from CDCTA Treasurer Amy Stapleton:

“What is a Barn Name? Why do you end up calling your horse (and other critters in your life) a pet name? Almost all of the horse people I know have a barn name for their horse. How do we get these names? And why? Is it because so many horses have long, hard names that do not lend themselves to using when you talk to your horse or holler at them to come up to eat? Send us your horse (or other critters) real name and their barn name. And let us know how you came up with the name you use every day.

My horse came with a barn name, but I still ended up with other names too.

Real name: Pressoneforenglish (no reason to explain why she had to have another name for daily use, right)

Barn name she came with: (Crystal picked this one): Delilah

Barn name at my farm: The Magnificent Miss D (Miss D for short)

And now her new barn name, which we came up with when she lost her eye: Winky the Pirate. To keep from being so sad when my beautiful mare lost her eye, I had to find some humor, so I started calling her my pirate. We joked about getting her a bedazzled eye pack. Then one day Andy was out by the barn lot and commented how the "gone" eye still moves like it is winking. Winky the Pirate was born. She will always be magnificent to me. “

Email eshussey@gmail.com or text 573-808-6897 and let us know your horse's barn name and why you chose it. We will be looking forward to hearing the stories!!



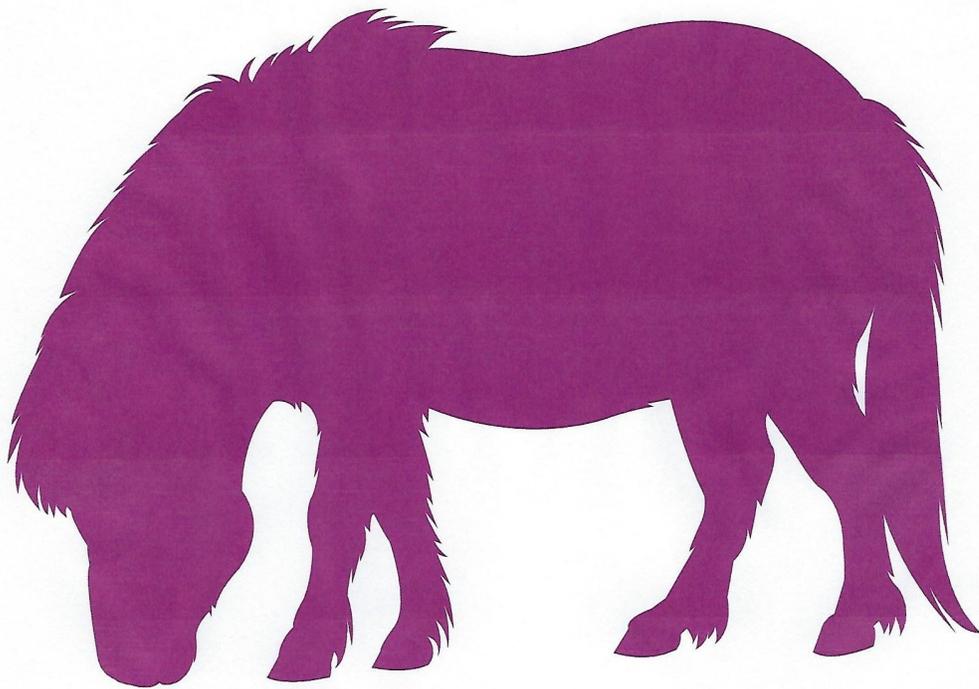


One of my finds during the massive cleanout of my den/library.....

It was almost thirty years ago but Stony Hill Farm and our dearly departed Liz Hotchkiss used to hold little barn shows occasionally. Very user-friendly and mostly low-level hunter classes and fun stuff, including the Horseless Hunter Class, which featured energetic human entrants riding “horses” consisting of their own lower extremities over a small course of jumps. We were judged, of course, on obedience and smoothness of trip.

My “horse” was unruly and refused several fences (try cantering around a big ole arena and jumping fences on your own sometime-it’s harder than it looks) and so I ended up with a fourth place. But this is one of my most treasured ribbons because it reminds me of a time when showing horses was for fun only, and no pressure for points or placings.

It means even more to me now that there won’t be any more of them. Do you have a story about a favorite ribbon or placing? Send us the info and a photo if you can get one...we would love to relive your moments with you!



What's the best part of quarantine?

Lots of time to ride, and lots of time to READ!!

The Purple Pony Bookmobile will be parked for awhile due to a lack of horse shows and equestrian events to attend..but that doesn't mean you can't still avail yourself of the largest collection of horse books in the mid-Missouri area!

Whether your tastes run to mystery, or romance, or equestrian philosophy, or how-to books we have what you want, from classics of the genre to the newest releases, with titles for all ages of readers.

In order to follow the latest COVID-19 guidelines, this is what we can do to help you keep your mind working during this enforced solitude: if you are a CDCTA member I will let you check out up to six books at a time; there is no charge although I will bug you to return them if you haven't gotten them back to me in a month. If you rip through books like some of my friends do, bring the ones you have already read back and check out another batch.

I have our entire inventory listed in alphabetic order and by category, so if you are looking for particular books I can let you know if I have them, and if you don't have specific titles in mind just let me know what kind of books you like, and topics you are interested in, and I will put together an assortment for you.

I will bring your selections to work with me at my clinic, Horton Animal Hospital-Central on I-70 Drive Southwest. Call our front desk from the parking lot 445-4466 and we will bring the books out to you in a bag or box and leave them there for you to pick up, so it is "contact-less". My employees wash and sanitize their hands before and after each interaction, and I will wear gloves and a mask when I put them together for you. All the books have been safely inside my horse trailer since before this whole thing started, so they are clean and virus-free.

If you need some awesome reading material or just something to leaf through while watching another episode of Law and Order during our enforced couchitude, call or text me at 573-808-6897 or email me at eshussey@gmail.com and I will hook you up!!

Once upon a Blue Moon Annie....

When I was 27 my dream came true. I purchased my very own horse. Her name was Blue Moon Annie and she was not everything I was looking for: at least 7 years old, at least 16 hands, able to school me in jumping, and a gelding. Her price was 50% more than my Horse Fund contained. My purchase plan included looking at at least 10 potential steeds. Annie was number nine.

She was on cross-ties when I entered the barn. I approached from behind and noted clean legs and a huge rump sporting a long full Percheron tail; the thoroughbred half was nowhere to be seen. Continuing forward I found an equally huge belly, with a stout leg at each corner. Her massive chest rose to a short neck with ample mane for grabbing over fences. In fact, most of her crest sported a full mane on both sides. Then I came to her head. She turned a bit and looked at me from the softest, deepest, most serene eye I had ever imagined. I was sold. The two-page Equine Evaluation form I'd completed for numbers one through eight never came out of my pocket.

Our test ride proved that her giant heart squashed all shortcomings: under saddle only three months (her career began in combined driving), single clinic of jumping experience, my inexperience (I was experienced enough to recognize my limited horse lore).

Annie came home for a week trial at Hada Farm, where I worked. The lesson barn owned a score of lesson horses and stabled about a dozen boarders. I was receiving a raise: Annie's board, allowing me to sidestep the prohibitive cost of horse-keeping in New Jersey. Thursday the trial ended and I mailed the largest check I'd ever signed. Saturday a massive storm left an inch of ice coating the eastern seaboard DC to Maine. Monday I arrived at work to find the barn condemned by severe structural damage to the arena roof.

My bosses were dumbfounded: their partner had absconded with the farm's capital fund. They could not repair. Suddenly, thirty three horses had to find new homes. Several students purchased favorite steeds, boarders shifted to new stables, and several school horses moved to Duncraven Stables to establish a lesson program there.

And there was Annie. I had just spent every last cent on my beautiful mare. My job was toast and her board was not transferable. As is so often the case in the horse world, friends pulled together. I was introduced to a dressage judge who needed a boarding/stablehand arrangement. My boss passed to me the job offer heading up the new lesson program at Duncraven, and suddenly life was not just good, it was grand! I got a solid promotion to my instruction career, and Annie was safely ensconced with a judge who would guide us to 60% at our Third level debut.

Annie was my partner for 26 years. During our six years in New Jersey, we competed heartily: A few events, dressage to Third Level, though the flying change remained an elusive challenge to Annie's Dachshund shape; only when utterly straight and ENGAGED would the prize so fleet(ingly) occur. Our musical rides team took many championships in Quadrille, Pas de Deux, and individual freestyles. On the simply fun side, we provided 'grand opening entertainment' for arenas and parks throughout the region.

Twice we enjoyed a gallop on an Atlantic Ocean beach, and found our legyields in the sweeping surf. We enjoyed hunter paces, most especially the Halloween Pace where Annie and I were ballerinas. Annie's eight foot long tutu left little tufts of pink tulle in the bushes all along the trail.

We moved to Riggs, Missouri in December, 2000. Annie and her schoolie comrades Sam, Teisa, and trusty sidekick Misty Morning Sky opened Willow Ponds Farm to great success. The school herd grew, boarders came in and eventually Annie was Matriarch to a herd of fourteen. She carried me to my qualifying scores for my 'L' candidacy, and provided innumerable lessons on why a dachshund really is better suited 'in front of a cart' rather than 'up in front'.

Somewhat more than a decade ago, Annie got a beau (Rijn Beau) and gave me Tesseract. She watched with serene bemusement as Tess got her initial exam and stick of the needle. Always gentle Annie mothered her filly just so. She provided that comfort to me, too. Confidant, consoler, my solid rock for almost half my life. Blue Moon Annie went to greener pastures nine days before the Pink Super Moon of 2020 could brighten her 33rd birthday. And fittingly, the only Blue Moon this year is on Halloween.

As before, the horse community has brought solace in difficult times. I'd particularly like to thank Pat Smith and Sharon Rose for their invaluable advice in dealing with Willow Ponds Farm's loss.

-Kim Kriekhaus



PHOTO MONTAGE, ABOVE

Blue Moon Annie showing her skills in a variety of events and as a true blue equine friend, enjoying fun and carefree times as well as competing.

Editor's Note: My favorite memory of Annie was during the one and only CDCTA Foxhunt. We were invited as a club by Bridlespur Hunt in Defiance, Missouri and four of us took up the challenge and headed east for some hilltopping. Charles was on Dan, who was very impressed by the foxhounds pouring out of the pickup trucks in the warmup arena. Amy Stapleton was up on my own red mare Clamenza, also interested in the procedure but behaving like a perfect lady. I was riding Billy, who had done real, actual New Zealand foxhunting before in his home country and was geared up and ready to go. Kim was up on Annie, and the four of us took off on an adventure that none of us will soon forget.

Suffice it to say that we all learned a lot, and after almost four hours in the saddle we were as ready as our tired mounts to go back to the trailers. As a club we acquitted ourselves well, and our horses did not embarrass us, but Annie managed to do a jiggling trot for about three and a half hours of the hunt, while Kim gamely kept her perfect position and sat the trot. For, like, a really *really* long time.

I'm not sure I have the courage or the temperament for foxhunting but it was a grand time, and fun as much for seeing how our horses felt about it as for how we felt about it.

For purposes of eligibility for all T.I.P. classes and awards, a "Thoroughbred" is defined as any horse that has been registered with The Jockey Club or a foreign Thoroughbred stud book recognized by TJC. In order to participate in a T.I.P. class or be eligible for a T.I.P. award, owners and riders must obtain a T.I.P. Number. The T.I.P. number card should be provided to participating horse shows as proof of eligibility.

* To obtain a T.I.P. number, please go to <http://tjctip.com/default.asp?page=19>. There is no charge for a T.I.P. Number.

* You will need an Interactive Registration account in order to apply for a T.I.P. number. This is a free account which will also allow you to transact other business with The Jockey Club through our Interactive Registration (IR) system, www.registry.jockeyclub.com. If you do not have an IR account, please follow the prompts to sign up. Once you've gotten the account, you'll need to go back to www.tjctip.com to apply for the number. If you do have one, please login.

* Click "Apply for a T.I.P. Number"

* Follow the instructions. Only enter ONE of the search fields (Horse name, tattoo OR dam name/YOB). Please use the Search/Submit buttons and be sure to populate each field. Do not hit "enter" to go to the next step.

o If you do not know your horse's registered name or pedigree, you can use the link that says "If you need assistance with identification, please click here" and fill out the email form for assistance.

* Once you have completed the application, please print a T.I.P. Card using the button to the right and present this at horse shows for proof of eligibility.



IF YOU ARE TIRED OF LAME TV SHOWS DURING THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE, WHY NOT GO AHEAD AND REGISTER YOUR THOROUGH-BRED WITH THE TIP PROGRAM? IT'S FREE, AND OPENS UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF AWARDS FOR YOUR OFF-THE-TRACK THOROUGH-BRED. CDCTA SHOWS ALWAYS HAVE DESIGNATED DIVISIONS FOR TIP HORSES, WITH GREAT PRIZES AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION. DON'T LET THE WARMBLOODS HAVE ALL THE FUN!

COLUMBIADCTA

DRESSAGE & COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION

Beth Hussey
655 North Route O
Rocheport, MO 65279



NEXT MEETING: Nothing, for the moment; but as soon as the immediate crisis passes and life resumes its normal rhythm, watch this space for the next meeting we have! I'm sure everyone will have a lot of stories to tell....

Columbia Dressage & Combined Training Association 2020 Membership Form

CDCTA is a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Group Member Organization (GMO). By joining CDCTA you are becoming a Group member of the USDF. \$27 of your CDCTA dues are forwarded to the USDF as GMO membership dues. (\$18 for additional members in family)

Membership year runs December 1-November 30. Dues are payable in October.

Individual Membership: \$45.00/year

Family Membership: \$45.00/year plus \$30.00 for additional member residing at same address. Please list all members included (use additional sheets if needed).

Name(s) _____

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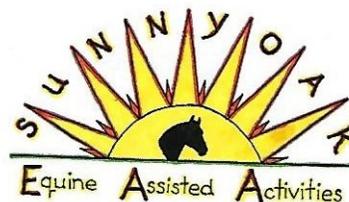
NOTE: We send our monthly newsletters out by email. Please check here if you would prefer to receive a mailed copy. _____ Did someone refer you for membership? _____

I am We are occasionally asked to share our membership list with persons or corporations with items of possible interest to our members.

Please circle one: DO DO NOT include my name on this list.

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