

FEATURED CAT Wiki

Many people have told us that Wiki has the looks of a beauty queen, and we agree! But she is also sweet as a peach and smart as a whip. Wiki is very affectionate, and loves being with people once she has been properly introduced. She has some definite ideas about how to train the human members of the household. In fact, her foster mom says Wiki has no lack of confidence and sometimes acts more like a canine than a feline.

Wiki prefers not to share her space with other cats. We haven't tested her with dogs, but we think she may enjoy a

respectful dog companion. She loves playing with toys, and we're happy to report that she even likes the toys that other foster and resident cats have rejected as beneath consideration. She is very curious, having investigated every nook and cranny of her home, making sure to hunt and remove any spiders and bugs lurking in the corners.

After making her rounds and having a good play, Wiki likes to relax in the highest perch of her cat tower, keeping an eye on the neighborhood from the living room window. She is in excellent health and has impeccable litter box habits.

Wiki is two years old. She has been spayed and microchipped, tested



negative for FeLV/FIV, and is up-to-date on vaccines. Her adoption fee is \$80. To learn more about Wiki or any of our cats for adoption, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

FEATURED DOG Beatrice

This lovely lady is Beatrice, known to her friends as Miss Bea. If you are looking for a sweet, well-behaved, and loyal companion then look no further—Miss Bea is your gal. She is house- and crate-trained, and has lived happily with dogs, cats, ducks, and people. Bea doesn't require much exercise beyond some gentle walking every day. She mostly just wants to sit next to somebody, bask in mutual adoration, and enjoy the good life.

We know that somebody loved Bea before she came to our rescue, but somehow she ended up at a high-kill shelter, brought there as a "stray." She was so traumatized from being left behind that she became paralyzed with anxiety and had to be carried in and out of the building. Shelter volunteers were so moved by her sadness that they found a place for her to be boarded to wait for an opening in a rescue.



When she first came to My Way Home, Bea was still nervous and had some weakness in her hips. But now her coat shines, her smile lights up a room, and water therapy has done wonders to build up her strength.

Bea is a German Shepherd mix, 10 years old and weighs about 40 lbs. She takes a daily supplement to help her joints stay supple, but otherwise she is good health and has no special needs.

All dogs from My Way Home Dog Rescue are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and are current on vaccines. Miss Bea's adoption fee of \$200 includes: leash, collar, blanket, food sample, and a copy

of *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home*, by Patricia McConnell.

If you are interested in meeting Miss Bea, contact Cheryl at cayoshioka@aol.com or 503-974-4944.

From the President's Desk

I intended to start this paragraph describing a deep sigh of relief that kitten season is finally winding down. But mid-sentence there arrived a message from our rescue friend in the Willamette Valley. She was on a summer evening bike ride, stopped to watch some frolicking adolescent kittens, and from the bushes came a familiar, unmistakable sound: the mewing of newborn kittens. She found the nest of seven (!) babies with their mom, and knocked on the door to find out more.

The human family living there had been trying to help the cats, but faced many challenges of their own. They welcomed the opportunity to surrender all the cats—mom, the seven infants, and the two teens—knowing they didn't have the resources to care for them properly. We agreed to accept all 10 members of the cat family into our rescue and they became the "G" and "H" litters.

Those letters are how we name and keep track of the kittens we rescue each year. We start with "A" (usually in March or April) the second litter gets "B" names and so on. This year we've been through the alphabet twice and now we're up to "H" for the third time. That's over 200 kittens through our boot camp this year!

At least six of those litters, including the "R" kittens, came from one location, an apartment complex in Clackamas County. The third "A" litter came from a beautiful Siamese cat who chose to have her kittens behind a carpet store on a busy street in SE Portland. The kittens are still in boot camp, but their mom has been spayed and returned to the store owners, who will continue to provide food and shelter for her.

Another litter was born in a trap the night before their feral mom was scheduled to be spayed. We received a call from the caregiver of the cat, who was understandably distraught to find the newborn kittens and had no idea what to do. We arranged for the new little family to be brought to safety with our foster volunteer who has the special skills needed to care for feral cats with kittens. When they have been weaned, we'll sign them up for boot camp, and this mom will also be spayed and returned to her home.

Aside from kittens, the most common situation requiring our help is cats being left homeless when their caregiver is no longer able to live at home and no friends or family members will take responsibility. Often these are well-loved, older pets

who make excellent companions, but are overlooked in favor of the youngsters. We recently rescued two such cats, and you can read more about Pearlie and Mrs. Partridge on page 6. Please consider filling an empty space in your family with one of our senior ladies.

Our latest TNR (trap-neuter-return) project started with a phone call from a social worker who wanted to help her client, a kind man feeding stray cats at his apartment building. Our volunteers visited the site and found that several residents

were working together to feed about a dozen cats and several litters of kittens. We introduced the caregivers to our trapping techniques, and soon had 13 adult cats trapped and on their way to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon clinic for spay/neuter services. The momcats haven't brought their kittens out of hiding yet, but as soon as they appear, we'll grab them and get them into boot camp and on their way to new lives as pampered indoor pets.

Our friends at My Way Home Dog Rescue have chosen saving senior dogs as their special mission. They focus on rescuing dogs from high-kill shelters that have little chance of adoption without help from a private rescue. On September 13, we joined My Way Home volunteers at "Strut Your Mutt," a fundraising event which brought in over \$7,000. The rescue has started construction on a sanctuary where senior dogs can live in comfort for as long as needed to find their adoptive families, and this event was crucial to their fundraising effort.

We're very happy to report that Jasper (formerly Dudley), featured dog in our summer issue, has recovered very well from surgery to repair a broken leg. And even better, he's been adopted by a wonderful family. Read the details on page 3.

As always, we are grateful to all our supporters who make it possible for our volunteers to keep helping animals in need. A special note of appreciation goes to the family of Mary Lou Pollock. She was a true friend to all animals and her family continues to donate in her memory, which allows us to carry on the work that was so important to her.

Happy Fall!

— Carma Crimins
PRESIDENT



FROM TOP: A KITTENS, G KITTENS,
R KITTENS

Since ARCF does not currently have a dog adoption program, we are working with other local dog rescue groups who share our goals and philosophies of animal welfare and rescue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
mywayhomedogrescue.org
503-974-4944

MY WAY HOME DOG RESCUE

Jasper (formerly Dudley)

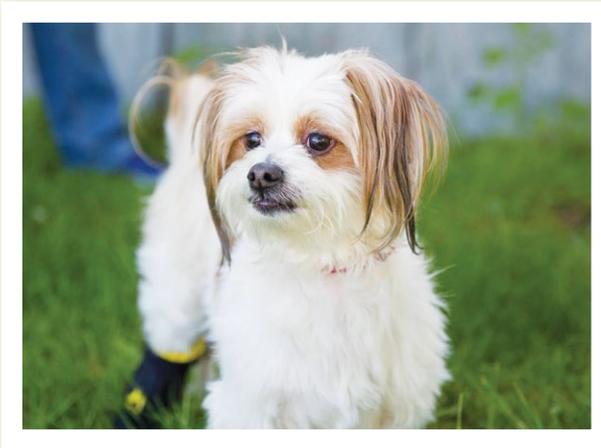
Jasper came to our attention through a kind-hearted friend named Mary, a longtime supporter of ARCF and My Way Home Dog Rescue. Mary was familiar with Jasper's home environment and knew that he needed medical attention that his family couldn't provide. They were willing to give him up, and although we don't usually accept owner-surrendered pets, knowing that Jasper had a broken leg needing immediate treatment convinced us to make an exception.

We committed to cover the expenses for Jasper's veterinary care, our friends at My Way Home agreed to squeeze one more little dog into an already-full foster home, and Jasper was on his way to a new life.

In addition to his injured leg, Jasper had some itchy bald spots and, at five years old, still needed to be neutered. Because the injury was old, surgery was required to put his bones back together properly. With a few weeks of good food and a snazzy new haircut, Jasper looked like a new little man. His recovery was gradual and included lots of kennel rest and gentle walking. In a couple months, the cast came off and the surgeon pronounced Jasper fit and ready to take the next step in his new life: finding his forever family. His sweet little face attracted plenty of attention, but one family in particular seemed to have just the right spot for him. Recently we received this message from his new family:

We saw Jasper in the Animal Rescue & Care Fund newsletter when he was the featured pet! We took one look at his photo and knew that he was the long-lost brother for our

Japanese Chin, Rainier. We lost one of our dogs in January and we thought our two boys, Rainier and Brodie were ready to have a new pack member.



JASPER



RACHEL (LEFT) AND LISA, WITH JASPER, BRODIE, AND RAINIER

Before adopting him we did a meet-and-greet at Cheryl's house and the three dogs did really well together. After Jasper came to our home, he got over his initial anxiety very quickly. We are used to adopting rescue dogs and understand how stressful that transition time can be; for new dog, old dogs, and humans alike. But it went quickly and he is definitely part of our pack now.

Because his home life now is so different than his previous situation, we're still working on the "ban on people food" and a few more of our family habits. He and his brothers play a lot. They share toys and can act pretty silly when they get going. He has gotten to the point where he now has favorite toys and he plays with them frequently—the bottle skunk, the orca, and the monkey puppy. We believe that having favorites means that he trusts that he's got a stable home for the long term.

We want you to know how much we appreciate ARCF and all your donors for paying for his expensive surgery (he's got seven screws, a plate, and a wire holding one leg together—on our recent follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon, she affectionately described him as the bionic dog). With physical therapy he is almost at full use of his leg and just needs to get a bit stronger.

— Lisa and Rachel

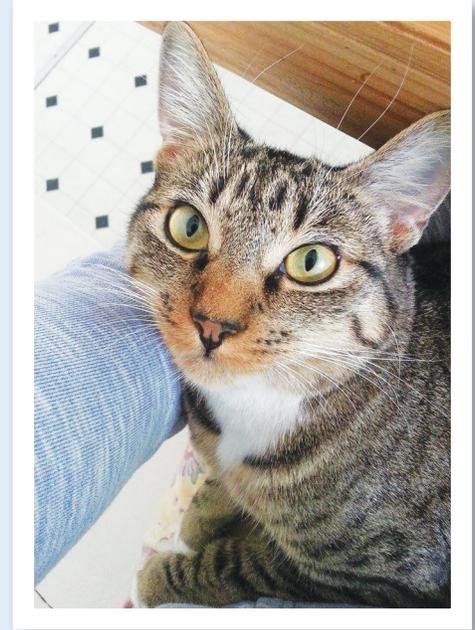
FOR THE LOVE PET PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

River Song (formerly Jazzy)

Early last December, we were asked if we had a spot in our foster home for a teenage kitten. This sweet and spunky girl was found hanging around the post office terminal at the Portland airport. After feeding her for a few days in the hope that someone would come looking for her, an employee took her to be checked by a vet for a microchip and posted "found cat" notices in all of the official places. After a few weeks with no response, the finder asked for our help, since she was not interested in adopting a cat. We had an opening in our foster room, so after another trip to the vet for spaying and "the works," we named her Jazzy and she came home with us.

It didn't take long to see that we had an extraordinarily smart, confident, and affectionate kitten on our hands. She loved everything and everybody. And as it turns out, we knew of just the perfect home! A few years ago, Heather had adopted the fine and fluffy feline Simon from ARCF and nursed him through some tough medical issues. Jen brought her own Mrs. Kitty when they joined households. Once they settled into a bigger place, they were ready to add a kitten to the family. We arranged a meeting and it really was love at first sight.

The only question was whether Simon and Mrs. Kitty would tolerate a youngster moving into their space but we all agreed it was worth a try.



RIVER SONG



BIG BROTHER SIMON

Jazzy was renamed River Song, after a character from *Dr. Who*, and she quickly took over running the household. Simon doesn't quite know what to make of her yet and Mrs. Kitty is still trying to claim dominance, but equilibrium is gradually being reached.

(We couldn't resist including this gratuitous photo of a fluffy kitty belly belonging to Simon.)

River is an energetic, inquisitive, and very friendly kitten. She wants play time 24/7, which can be trying for the adult cats (and people!) in the family, but she is so adorable and affectionate, we all love her anyway. It turns out her personality matches her namesake: she is spunky, daring, and absolutely devoted to her loved ones.

— Heather Tollander & Jen Hicks

Here's an easy way to support ARCF while you shop online at Amazon. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the browser on your computer or mobile device. We suggest you bookmark that page to make it easy to start shopping there in the future. For all eligible products you

order, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the charitable organization you select to benefit.

You will use the same account for both Amazon.com and AmazonSmile, so your shopping cart, wish list, and other settings stay the same. The first time you log in to AmazonSmile

you will be asked to choose an organization, and we thank you in advance for choosing ARCF to benefit from your purchases! Small amounts add up, and each quarter we receive a check from Amazon, thanks to friends who shop for ARCF.

SUCCESS STORIES

Ike and Ivy

Last May we started working with property managers in Clackamas County to help TNR (trap-neuter-return) outdoor-living cats at two apartment complexes where pet cats had been allowed to roam and breed, and the population had grown to approximately 20 adult cats and at least that many kittens.

Our volunteers worked for several months to make sure every adult cat was fixed and every kitten was removed, socialized, and placed for adoption. The “I” litter were very good at hiding from our trappers, but they were no match for wily and determined Courtney, our champion kitten trapper!

Our kitten boot camp drill sergeants are the best in the business. As fast as Courtney could trap them, Ruth came to collect the kittens and get them checked into their barracks to start learning the ropes. Ruth and Matt did a great job teaching all the kittens how to be adorable and most of them were adopted—except Ike and Ivy. And you can probably guess how this story ends:

After the loss of our beloved Oscar (cat) and Daisy (dog) in a span of less than two weeks, we were looking for some fun so we contacted ARCF and offered to foster kittens again. It took less than a week for Carma to set us up with the “G” litter. Before they had even moved on, the first five members of the “I” litter needed us. Indigo, Irene, and Ike were pretty sick with URI (upper respiratory infection). A few days later Irving



IKE & IVY

joined his siblings followed by ever so shy Ivy.

They all thrived but baby Ick, as we started calling Ike, needed some extra attention. We separated him from the others and he and our dog Dexter became buddies. It was then we thought maybe we’d add Ike to our family. His siblings gained weight and confidence and went on to be adopted—that is, except Ivy. We held her back because she was still shy and Ike was too small.

Well as they say, the rest is history. Who were we kidding thinking we could let anyone adopt them but us? They are a truly bonded pair, full of energy, curiosity and mischief. Our other cats have realized they are going to stay, and they are OK with that, so far. They are a fun addition. Matt and I eat our breakfast watching “kitten TV” most mornings. We really just wanted to foster, as we have a large pet family already, but sometimes one, or in our case two, cats come into your life when you need them.

Thank you ARCF for bringing these crazy fuzz balls into our life. And for all the other kittens you rescue!

— Ruth and Matt Page

ANIMAL PLACEMENTS

June-July-August: we placed 2 cats in loving, responsible homes. Major expenses were:

Veterinary Fees: \$8,405.79*
Advertising/Outreach: \$0
Food/supplies: \$1,132.97
Newsletter: \$1,782.00

* These expenses include veterinary care for the pets of Portland’s homeless. We also had expenses for injured and sick pets and emergency vet visits.

AnimalTalk

ANIMAL TALK is a quarterly newsletter published by Animal Rescue & Care Fund, Inc., and printed by Natural Press in Portland.

Our Mission: To rescue, shelter, and care for homeless animals and place them in permanent, responsible homes; to promote and support spay/neuter for all companion animals.

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Featured Senior Cats

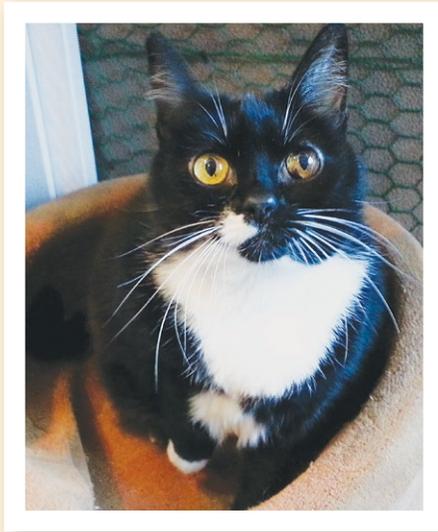
Pearlie and Mrs. Partridge

Pearlie and Mrs. Partridge came to us from separate situations, but their stories are similar. Both are sedate ladies “of a certain age” who lost their homes when their person was no longer able to care for them. Both are safe with us now, and we’re looking for families who appreciate the pleasures of living with sweet senior cats, who ask very little but give so much.

Mrs. Partridge was quite distraught when she first came to us. After living for nine years with a kindly lady who led a quiet life, Mrs. P’s lady was facing a series of very long hospital stays and couldn’t care for Mrs. P any longer. Because of her age and somewhat introverted personality, no shelter or rescue was willing to accept her. Our foster homes were full, as always, but we knew that Mrs. P was in a desperate situation.

We were prepared for a lengthy adjustment period, but in a matter of hours after arriving at our foster home, Mrs. Partridge was purring, chirping, and elevating her back end to meet the hand that reached down to pet her. She loves nothing more than sitting close to someone willing to comb her lovely tuxedo coat, chat, and cuddle for hours on end. Mrs. P will show her appreciation by nuzzling and giving lots of kisses on the hand, the elbow—even right on the nose. She doesn’t care for toys or vigorous activity; she really just wants to coexist in mellow bliss forever.

Mrs. P did live with a feline companion early in her life, and she seems quite curious and willing to make friends with the resident cats at her foster home. She could benefit from losing a bit of excess avoirdupois, so we are encouraging a diet of low-carb, high-quality food. Otherwise she has no special needs, and her litter box habits are perfect.



MRS. PARTRIDGE

We don’t know anything of **Pearlie’s** history, except that the elderly gentleman who cared for her died recently. Neighbors noticed her hanging around the now-vacant house, trying to get in. One kind person made sure Pearlie had food and water every day, but she knew that was only a temporary fix and called us for help.

We asked our friends at Multnomah County Animal Services to help us find any family members who might take responsibility for Pearlie, but none were found.

What we do know is that Pearlie is full of affection and hungry for attention; if there’s a lap available, she makes a beeline for it and will stay there until the book is read, the movie is over, and the cows come home. Pearlie also loves being groomed. Gentle brushing from head to toe sends her right to her happy place of “purr-til-you-drool.” She hasn’t shown much interest in toys, except to nuzzle a bit with the

catnip mouse, but she loves to watch “cat TV” through the window and to observe and comment on human activities, indoors and out.

Other cats make Pearlie a little nervous. She might be willing to coexist with another mellow cat, given proper introductions, but we think she would prefer to be someone’s “one and only.” We guess she is also about nine years old. Her house manners are impeccable and she even purrs all the way through her nail trimming!



PEARLIE

Both of these dignified ladies are in good health, and have excellent litter box habits. They have been spayed and microchipped, tested negative for FeLV/FIV, and are up-to-date on vaccines. Their adoption fee is \$40 each. To learn more about Pearlie and Mrs. Partridge, please call 503-402-8692, email arcf@pdx-petadoption.org, or visit www.pdx-petadoption.org.

IN MEMORIAM



SESAME

Eliza Kang shared the sad news that her sweet old cat Sesame reached the end of her days. Sesame was already a senior citizen when Eliza adopted her from ARCF in 2012. Sesame suffered from the usual “old kitty” ailments, like failing kidneys and hyperthyroidism, but she was a diva right up to the end. Sesame was well-loved by the Kang family where she ruled the quiet upper level of the home, preferring not to share space with the other feline and canine family members, who caused her no end of aggravation with their silly antics downstairs. Her regal presence will be missed.

Jim, Jamey, and Morgan Bixler lost their 5-year-old cat Spencer to sudden cardiac arrest, while snoozing in his favorite napping place. Spencer was a big beautiful boy who was adored by his human family, his littermate Rosie, and his canine pal, Willow. Spencer and Rosie found their forever home with the Bixlers nearly five years ago after being rescued and fostered by ARCF. Spencer enjoyed drinking from water glasses, hunting spiders, keeping Rosie and Willow in line, hiding under the Christmas tree, and most of all being with his family and getting lots of love. He is deeply missed and will always be remembered.



SPENCER

Calhoun, the loving dog of Mike and Lorene Vollmar was remembered with a memorial donation by Kathrine Grinnell.



MURPHY

Claudia Stewart lost her mellow cat Murphy to severe diabetes. He was one of those extraordinary cats who could win over even the staunchest of anti-feline humans with his easy-going nature, non-stop purr, and tolerance for lots of love and kisses. Murphy showed up about eight years ago with a colony of feral cats that Claudia has tended for many years, and made it clear that he was ready to come home and spend the rest of his life on her couch. Murphy will always have a special place in Claudia’s heart.

The Springwater Trail cat colony in southeast Portland lost their beloved black cat Bump, a founding member of the tribe. Bump benefitted from a TNR (trap-neuter-return) program at his colony nine years ago. He survived winter blizzards, scorching summers, bad-mannered dogs, and mean-hearted people, but he could not win his battle against cancer. His loss saddens the hearts of the dedicated Cat Trail Posse, the volunteers who have fed and cared for him and his colony mates every day for the last nine years.

Ruth and Matthew Page lost one of their feline family members to an accident. Astral was a handsome jet-black fellow who enjoyed human companionship but refused to settle down to the indoor life. He usually stayed close to home but periodically went on walkabouts and one recent summer day he went a little too far.



ASTRAL

Jackie Fischer lost her cat Alaric to cancer at the age of ten years. He appeared at her house three years ago and made himself at home. He didn’t want to talk about the first part of his story, but the last years were good ones.



HELEN

Another member of the feral cat colony famous for their appearance in an OPB Field Guide episode has moved on to her next life. Helen was there to greet us every day at meal time, usually sitting right next to her sister, Anita. She loved to watch us doing chores and always cooperated with visitors looking for photo opportunities.

Helen was the only long-haired member of the family, and her beautiful tortie coat provided such excellent camouflage that we’d sometimes get almost close enough to stumble across her before she decided to make her move to a more secure vantage spot.

Helen was one of the three daughters of matriarch Mother Maybelle. She was already an adult when her colony was TNR’d eight years ago, so we don’t know her exact age, but we think Helen was about 10 years old. She is missed by her caregivers and her colony mates Roseanne and Betty, and especially by her sister Anita, who was never far away.

Good kitty, nice kitty . . . OUCH!

Does your cat play too rough? You're having a nice pet-and-cuddle session and suddenly your furry pal chomps down on your hand? He's probably crossed the line from predatory play to "sneak attack," practicing his instinctive hunting skills on you! While it's flattering to be chosen as a playmate, don't let yourself be the target of claws and teeth. Even if you don't mind, this behavior won't endear your cat to others, and could cause serious damage to youngsters, oldsters, and anyone else with tender skin.

One reason for too-vigorous play may simply be boredom. Most of us leave our cats alone for many hours every day (and most cats enjoy their time alone—that's why we love them) but that can mean a lot of time with no stimulation, followed by too much excitement when somebody does come home. The first thing we suggest is to get your cat another cat. Even if they don't become bosom buddies, having a companion can provide mental stimulation and stave off boredom. They can also practice their hunting skills on each other instead of you.

All cats appreciate having perches, shelves, and window seats for varied perspectives at different hours of the day. Some cats, especially younger ones, can amuse themselves with toys while no one is around, but most of them prefer attention from their human at play time. Make sure to set aside some time every day to get out the favorite toy and have a good play, even if it's only for ten minutes.

Many cats become over-stimulated and excitable during grooming. Regular brushing is important, so if this brings out an aggressive response in your cat, pay attention to how long she can tolerate the stimulation, notice changes in her body language, and stop before it goes too far. Make the sessions short and end with a treat.

Should you miss the signs before teeth and claws come out, a firm NO is in order. If your cat bites, don't yank your hand away, even though instinct tells you to. That's typical prey behavior and will entice her to bite again to "catch"



EDDIE (LEFT) AND TINKER AGREE THAT TWO IS BETTER.

you. Instead, push your hand into her mouth (which will cause her to open her mouth), say NO, and then leave. Don't reward bad behavior with more attention.

Most important: be consistent in your response. Don't waggle your fingers or toes as bait to entice your cat to play. Body parts are not toys: if you permit biting and scratching sometimes but not others, you're sending conflicting messages.

Respect your cat's boundaries, don't reward bad behavior, and play together every day.

YES! I want to help

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