



VOL. 15, Issue 2
Spring 2017

good  mews

purrs & prattlings



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Cover photo courtesy of Rebecca Pruet Photography

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MISSION STATEMENT

Good Mews offers an alternative to traditional animal shelters in the Metro Atlanta area by providing a no-kill, cage-free haven for homeless, abused, or abandoned cats until placing them in permanent, loving homes. Good Mews promotes public awareness regarding the value of pets, animal welfare, pet overpopulation, and quality human-animal companionship through education and outreach programs.

ON THE COVER

Digby

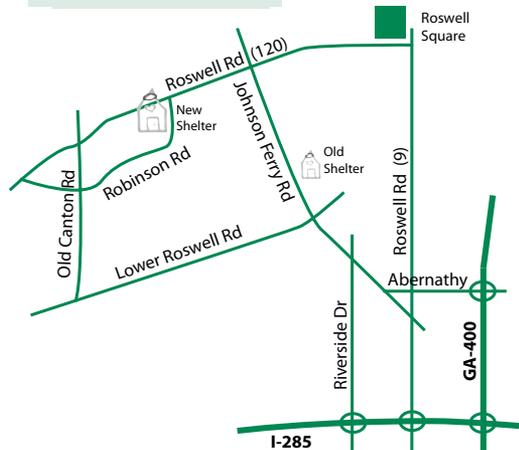
*"Just call me
Mr. Biscuit
Maker!"*



SHELTER LOCATION

Good Mews is located at 3805 Robinson Road in Marietta, 1 mile west of Johnson Ferry Road on Roswell Road (Highway 120), behind Rick's Farmers Market.

3805 Robinson Road



From the Shelter Manager



Dear Friends,

I am often asked what sets Good Mews apart from other rescue organizations. There are many answers to this question such as our cage-free environment, our desire to help some of the “less adoptable” cats, the excellent care that our cats receive, and our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

When I explain to outsiders that Good Mews is mostly volunteer run, with only three full-time staff positions, many people look at me in disbelief. How is it possible to run such a successful and reputable organization with only volunteers?

I think the answer to this question lies in the type of people that find themselves at Good Mews’ door. Of course, they are all cat lovers, but it’s so much more than that! Good Mews volunteers are devoted to our mission. Many have been with the organization for countless years, helping it grow from a fledgling rescue group to the magnificent brick and mortar shelter that we are today.

We recently hosted a volunteer appreciation party at the shelter during National Volunteer

Appreciation Week. The morning was filled with tasty treats, fun games, and some great prizes. This event was just a small token of appreciation for the hard work that our volunteers put in for Good Mews every day.

Whether they scoop litter boxes, foster kittens, research grant opportunities, or plan fundraising events, all of our volunteers are essential to the overall mission of Good Mews as well as the daily operations of the shelter. Good Mews is forever grateful for the caliber of people that volunteer with us. We truly would not be where we are today without the support and hard work of Good Mews volunteers.

Please join me in saying THANK YOU to our amazing volunteer family!

Sincerely,

Lisa Johns
Shelter Manager



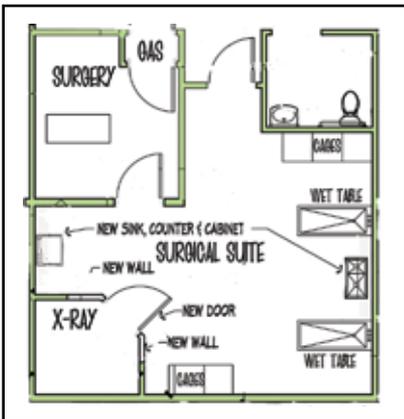
four paws, a tail & an attitude

Boca's cat-titude made her difficult to place and led to a 13-year tenure at Good Mews. Boca is the embodiment of why Good Mews exists and although she passed away in 2003, she forever watches over us and will remain the voice of her column.



There are many times that humans are excited for something that we cats don't necessarily understand: new smart phones, a good cup of coffee, puppies... the list goes on! And at the top of that list these days is the new surgical suite at the shelter. So far it's just a room we're not allowed in, but we keep hearing that soon cats will get to go in there to get fixed. Frankly, I wasn't aware any of us were broken!

Word has it that there's a new campaign underway to raise money to "Complete the Suite". Now, I'm no expert, so I don't know what sorts of things are needed to kit up a suite to fix cats. I'd guess a lot of catnip, maybe some fuzzy mice, and a good stock of peacock feathers? I, however, have decidedly NOT been consulted on what's needed, so I



Floor plan of the completed surgical suite.

can only hope that the other humans donating have put in some pointed requests to that effect.

From the sounds of it, the buildout is starting soon, so we'll point a keen eye to the hallway windows to see what exactly is getting carried in there. I think the humans are smart enough to try to hide the good stuff from us until the time is right, so I just bet that they're going to camouflage all the new toys in boxes labeled "vet supplies" or something to discourage us from investigating. Joke's on them; we can't read! And you really can't keep a cat out of a box...

**TRACK OUR PROGRESS AND
HELP US FILL IN THE PIECES!**
(EACH REPRESENTS \$100,000)

9

OPERATION

**COMPLETE
THE
SUITE!**

OUR GOAL = \$500,000
TOTAL RAISED = \$240,000

If you want to learn more about how to help "Complete the Suite" just visit the shelter website at goodmews.org/!

Update on “The Ocilla 20”

by Lisa Johns



From left: Irwin, Tanger, and Amy Lee, three of the Ocilla cats at the shelter and ready for adoption.

In February, Good Mews was made aware of a situation in which 57 cats were living outside with little food, no medical care, and a quickly growing population. We knew that we had to help, and made the three hour drive down to Irwin County. The family that was caring for the cats had created some makeshift shelters, but food and other resources were scarce. It was immediately obvious that all of the cats were hungry and covered in fleas, and many had signs of upper respiratory and viral eye infections. We knew in that instant that helping these cats would put a strain on our staff, volunteers, and finances, but still we brought 20 cats back to get the food, shelter, medical care, and love that they deserved.

Knowing that Good Mews would need immediate assistance in caring for these cats, we reached out to our community, supporters, and volunteers...and the reply was overwhelming! People responded with food, litter, and monetary donations for medical care. This money

aided Good Mews in paying for necessary medical treatment and procedures including vaccines, antibiotics, 16 spays and neuters, and an eye removal surgery. Saving “The Ocilla 20” and getting them on the road to recovery would not have been possible without supporters like YOU!

Several weeks later, we are still battling some medical issues but we have made great strides in getting these cats healthy and finding them homes. Of the 20 cats that Good Mews rescued from Ocilla, nine were adopted within the first month! Some of the remaining cats are still being treated for problems such as skin issues, eye ailments, or chronic congestion. While this has been a long journey for Good Mews and “The Ocilla 20”, seeing the transformation from starving and sickly to full and happy has made every minute worth it. It is only with YOUR help and support that Good Mews was able to change the future for “The Ocilla 20” and give them a life worth living. THANK YOU!

cats to consider

Coming Soon!

by Ashe Johnson

We all love watching new previews at the movies right? The thrill of anticipation and the excitement of something to look forward to... well, in that spirit we'd like to mix things up a

Snow White and the 7 Purrs

Rating: P for Purrrfect



This fairy tale begins with a rocky start, as so many fairy tales do. A solid white cat with stunning blue eyes found herself pregnant and alone at Paulding County Animal Control. Good Mews rode in and saved the day, and "Snow White" was taken into a foster home where she safely had four kittens. While she was shy at first, she has learned to completely trust her foster mom and the family is doing great. It's a magical new beginning for this princess and her brood: Pocahontas, Moana, Rapunzel, and Rumpelstiltskin!



little and give you a sneak peek at some feline friends who will be coming soon. So, grab the popcorn and have a seat!

The Cat With No Name

Rating: I for Inspirational



Twenty cats locked in one room. No electricity. No sanitation. A pregnant mom with kittens due at any moment... This momma cat's story begins like a horror film in a tragic hoarding situation. Luckily, Animal Control stepped in and "the cat with no name" gave birth that very night. Good Mews took in the mom, whom they christened Zara, and her hours-old kittens. Sadly, two of the three kittens were born with contracted tendons which will require physical therapy and splinting. As such, the litter was named after another inspirational example of the will to overcome adversity. Coming soon to a shelter near you: Hugo, Tucker, and Tillie!



Midnight Mini-Me's

Rating: A for Adorable



When it was time to have her babies, this beautiful jet-black mom chose one of the back decks of the apartment complex she'd been living at. All four babies were the spitting image of their mother! Soon after, mom and her doppelgängers were brought into the Good Mews foster program. Momma Lucy is shy, while sweet sisters Olive and Pepper are outgoing. "Brother Bean" is the love bug, and the only male in the bunch. Along with sister Berry, these siblings keep their foster mom on her toes trying to tell them apart.. Get ready to meet this lookalike litter soon!



Mama Cassie's New Band

Rating: PR for Precious



Sometimes family isn't just about blood. Mama Cassie already had four kittens of her own when she was taken in by a Good Mews foster family. Then, two weeks later she took two more kittens under her wing, after their mother was unable to care for them. SIX kids? And ALL BOYS?? Whew! Just think of all the adventures they'll be getting into. Everyone gets along wonderfully and this family-by-luck couldn't be happier. We can't wait for this band of mischiefs - Warren, Buffett, Harry, Truman, Otto, and Bismarck - to bring their energy to Good Mews!



Will these stories have a happy ending? With an abundance of beautiful babies and model mamas, we're confident that they will. Stay tuned for these feature families to make an appearance at Good Mews late this Spring!

Success Story

Ramsey

by Sandra Song

Ramsey's remarkable story exemplifies Good Mews' capacity to transform the lives of felines, in spite of seemingly impossible odds. Ramsey came from a Dunwoody hoarding situation in October of 2014, where he was living in deplorable conditions with over 70 other cats. His first stroke of luck was that he was one of 35 cats that Good Mews was able to rescue from this appalling environment.

Many of these 35 cats were quickly adopted, but Ramsey had developed a tendency to mark territory by spraying and often not using the litter box; these were undoubtedly survival tactics from his terrible past living conditions. The staff and volunteers at Good Mews gave Ramsey plenty of encouragement to change these habits, along with their typical dose of tender loving care. He was adored by all, described as "the sweetest and most loving guy". In fact, many potential adopters fell in love with his outgoing personality, but ultimately chose another cat because they were wary of Ramsey's litter box issues. The Good Mews team continued to do everything they could to calm Ramsey's social anxiety, including administering behavioral medication under a vet's care. They were able to attenuate the problem, but not completely resolve it.



Guarding the entrance to his new castle

Then, one day, Wanda Mustafa walked through the doors of Good Mews, and Ramsey met his destiny. "My wife had called me, full of excitement, telling me that I had to go to Good Mews and meet the most loving and adorable cat she had ever seen" Mustafa said. So, to Good Mews she went, where she immediately fell in love with Ramsey. Knowing of his litter box issues did not dissuade Mustafa from making the commitment to offer Ramsey his forever home.

Ramsey came to a home of true cat lovers, joining the "family" of five other felines. One would think that, given Ramsey's history, sharing a home with so many cats would encourage territory marking and litter box issues. Remarkably, Ramsey settled right in and has completely overcome these problems. Ramsey was doing so well in his new environment that, under his vet's supervision, they were able to wean Ramsey off his medication! Now Ramsey is fully his sweet and lovable self. No litter box issues. No anxiety. He is happy, well-adjusted, and secure in a loving forever home. Now that's what we call a true Success Story!



Showing his personality at Good Mews

Volunteer Spotlight

The Spring Market Crew

by Leigh Taylor Jose

We always enjoy taking time to recognize the hard work of our wonderful volunteers. In this edition of Purrs & Prattlings, the Volunteer Spotlight is a special one – we’re honoring not one, but a whole group of individuals that has shown an ongoing dedication to helping cats in need.



Every year, the volunteers that run the Spring Market put in THOUSANDS of hours to create a great place for people to shop – collecting and pricing donations, making advertisements, assisting customers, and more – all to raise money for Good Mews. Through the end of March this year alone, volunteers dedicated 1,046 hours to this key fundraiser. In 2016, volunteers gave 3,698 hours of their time to the market!

“By working together, this group has successfully grown the Spring Market into the largest fundraiser of the year for the kitties,” says volunteer Kelly McNamara. “It’s truly a group effort.”

This volunteer-intensive initiative has grown from an initial \$10,000 fundraiser to now well over \$70,000 in recent years. Of the dedicated volunteers, some have been involved with the Spring Market for a decade or more.

One such volunteer is ML Riedling, who has volunteered at the Spring Market for the past 11 years. She’s helped in various sale locations such as kitchen, appliances, garden, and candles to keep supplies stocked. “I am most proud of the teamwork and dedication of all

the volunteers who invest so many hours to make the market such a success,” says ML.

One of the most popular components of the Spring Market is the bake sale, an effort coordinated by Sharon Molnar Schleif. We’d like to give special recognition to Sharon not only for her dedication to Good Mews over the past 13 years, but also for raising nearly \$3,700 for her baked goods last year. Other than baking treats for all to enjoy, Sharon says she loves “helping raise money for the kitties in need.”

We would also like to give many thanks to the following volunteers for their ongoing contributions, which always help to make this project a great success: Katherine Akin, Bert and Stella Blenner, Esther Cadahia, Cheryl Cates, Will Dover, Elizabeth Finch, Jim and Chris Graubard, Celia Hauschild, Jane Jenkins, Chris Kitson, Jean Klim, Kelly McNamara, Tom and Linda McNamara, Bill and Louise Pardue, ML Riedling, Linda Smith, Iris Thorn, Ruth Turner, Erika Vogel, and Robbin Yeager.

We (and the cats of Good Mews) truly appreciate all you do!

h.a.l.o. highlight

home at last 🐾

Bitzy

by Bridget Szuminsky

Hello wonderful readers – Bitzy here! I’m the newest member of the HALO crew, but I wasn’t so sure about joining when I first came to Good Mews. You see, my housemate Lola and I had formed our own club early on in life at our fur-ever home. We even had

our own secret meow-codes and paw-shakes. I was so confused when we suddenly didn’t have purr-ferred lap seating or a bowl to call our own. But, when the volunteers explained that our dad had health issues and wanted to ensure we were taken care of, I knew they’d help find me a comfy new lap. Now that I’ve settled into my (hopefully) temporary digs, I’m showing all potential moms and dads how outgoing and friendly I really am. There’s nothing I won’t do for attention, and I’m happy to oblige when a human picks me up for hugs.

As an older gentleman, I’ve developed a few health problems of my own. I’m on medications to control high blood pressure and hyperthyroidism, and I have a heart murmur that needs to be monitored. I tend to get a bit constipated (no giggles, please!) but medications and treatment are helping greatly. Because of these health hiccups, I was inducted into the HALO program. One of the membership perks includes my healthcare being funded by Good Mews – even after I’m adopted. If you have what it takes to be my new fur-ever friend, please drop by Good Mews to submit your lap for cuddle consideration!



Kitty Keeper Candidate

Jumper *by Shelby Blakely*

Timidity is for the young; we older cats know how to get what we want. One day, I was brought to a TNR (trap – neuter – return) program. They took great care of me. So great, in fact, that when it came time to return me, I had no problem letting them know what I would settle for. It took a few tries before the humans caught on, but eventually, they realized when a cat keeps jumping into a carrier, it's coming home with you. Bless their hearts...

So now I'm at Good Mews and you can help a sassy, smoky, black beauty get what



she wants. Let's not waste time. I'm going to find a great human, and that human is going to pet me. In my own house. Don't get me wrong, I've had my kids, and they're great, but it's me time.

Like Naveen Andrews said, "Older women know who they are, and that makes them more beautiful than younger ones. I like to see a face with some character." Honey, I've got that in spades.

Want to learn more about my past adventures and how I went from LOST to found? Just sign up to be my Kitty Keeper! Read more on page 13.

Reading to Cats - Summer Sessions



Our Reading to Cats program is designed to help students gain more confidence in their reading skills and to provide enrichment for the cats and kittens. The interaction also teaches kids the importance of empathy, animal welfare, and community service. Each 90-minute reading session can accommodate up to 10 students, and one parent or guardian must accompany up to two students.

The first round of summer sessions will be held on June 5, 7, 15, 19, 21, 25, and 29. Weekday sessions are 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm and Sundays are 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Advance registration required. Sign up online via goodmews.org!

Save the Date



This year's Good Mews Auction/Fundraising Gala
may not be until November 11th, but
we need your help NOW!

We are seeking donations for the silent and live auction and we invite you (or your business) to support our worthy cause with an item or gift certificate for attendees to bid on. By doing so, along with the joy of knowing you have helped to save the lives of homeless cats and kittens, you receive:

- Your name (or business name) listed in the event program/signage
- The opportunity to provide take-home materials to event attendees
- Printed recognition in an upcoming issue of our quarterly newsletter

Please email Ruth Turner at rturner@goodmews.org for additional information about donating auction items.

Event sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more details contact Cindy Lavalée at cindy.lavallee@whiting-turner.com!

Ways to Contribute

FROM PURRSTRINGS TO PET SESSIONS...

There are numerous opportunities and ways to contribute to Good Mews including:



Memorials/Honorariums

What better way to honor or remember a pet, friend, or family member than making a donation in their name to Good Mews? Recipients and donors are listed in a special insert in each issue of this quarterly newsletter.

Bequests

Bequests are a commitment for an even better future for Good Mews. We recommend you consult your attorney to decide which arrangements best suit your individual circumstances.

Volunteering

Volunteers choose the area they want to work in depending upon how much time they are able to dedicate.

Good Mews relies on volunteer support for a variety of functions such as fundraising, adoptions, medical care, community outreach, and shifts for the upkeep of our shelter cats. Volunteers must attend an orientation meeting (schedule on page 15) to determine their area of interest and time they are able to dedicate.

Kitty Keeper

Give long distance love to a special cat that needs you!

Kitty Keeper cats tend to be overlooked for adoption because of age, reserved personality, or a medical issue; many have been waiting for their forever home for years. For a monthly donation of \$20 or more, you will receive quarterly updates from your “kept” kitty with a personal note and a picture. What could be better than a feline pen pal? A Kitty Keeper subscription makes a wonderful gift, too. Contact Harriotte Bohn at hpbohn@gmail.com to learn more.

HALO (Home at Last)

Finding permanent, loving homes for our special needs and geriatric cats.

HALO cats are typically overlooked for adoption because of age, ongoing medical conditions, or behavioral issues – the most common reasons behind euthanasia at traditional animal shelters. Funds designated to this program help pay for the ongoing medical care of these cats while they wait for AND once they find their perfect home.

CATmitment Program

Opening your heart and our doors!

The best way to sustain operations and ensure Good Mews is able to grow is by having a predictable monthly income. You can help the cats and kittens on a monthly basis through a recurring donation of \$50, \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, or other amount. Funds from the monthly CATmitment Program will go toward the care of the cats and kittens, as well as toward renovation of the new shelter building. Check the website to make your CATmitment to Digby and all his friends! Please also help by encouraging family, friends, and co-workers to match your donation! Contact Robbin Yeager at robbiny58@gmail.com to learn more.

Visit our website's "Giving to GM" section at www.goodmews.org for complete program descriptions and instructions on how to enroll or contribute to these programs.



Thank you, vets!

We would like to thank the following veterinarians who have given their assistance to Good Mews:

NAME	LOCATION	PHONE
Dr. Lynn Bahr	---	---
Dr. Agda Barreirinhas	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Lindsay Boozer	Cobb Veterinary Internal Medicine	678.354.7126
Dr. Jennifer Covington	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. James Davis	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Jerry Diaz	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. David Filer	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Michael Friedlander	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Cristina Fugedy	East Marietta Animal Hospital	770.973.4830
Dr. Lori Germon	Pets Premier Mobile Veterinary Clinic	678.800.2260
Dr. Tyler Huhman	Tritt Animal Hospital	770.992.8787
Dr. Tracey King	Animal Eye Specialists	770.427.3199
Dr. Patricia Lane	---	---
Dr. John Lewis	Lewis Veterinary Services (mobile service)	770.366.3880
Dr. Jeffrey Little	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Mary Matthews	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Angela Mees	Atlanta Veterinary Dental Services	770.552.8777
Dr. Thomas Noone	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Jennifer Palmer	Cat Care of Vinings	404.792.0700
Dr. Kelly Qualls	Cedarcrest Animal Hospital	770.544.0580
Dr. Michael S. Ray	The Cat Clinic of Roswell	770.552.7877
Dr. Marcus Smith	Chattahoochee Animal Clinic	770.993.6329
Dr. Kahrma Wagner	Veterinary Referral Surgical Practice	770.424.6663
Dr. Allison Wansky	Allatoona Animal Hospital	678.445.1111
Dr. Keri Webster	Montrose Animal Hospital	770.977.9000
Dr. Baily Cave Wood	Trickum Ridge Animal Hospital	770.516.1111

WishList

Some of the items we particularly need:

-  **HP 950 or 950XL Black printer cartridges**
-  **HP 951 or 951XL Cyan, Magenta or Yellow printer cartridges**
-  **Dasuquin capsules**
-  **Paper towels**
-  **Scoopable cat litter**
-  **Bleach**
-  **Feliway Diffuser refills**
-  **Copy paper**

Good Mews benefits from Metro Atlanta veterinarians who graciously donate their time and services to provide quality medical care for our residents. We are always in need of additional vets and vet techs. Contact the Shelter Manager at 770-499-CATS if you can make a little time to help.

NUMBER OF CATS ADOPTED

January	46
February	37
March	29
April	25
2017 Total	137

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Want to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Good Mews? The next scheduled orientations are:

June 4 Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
July 5 Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
August 2 Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

The meetings last about an hour. To sign up, please call 770.499.2287 and press "4" to leave a message, or email at goodmewsvolunteer@gmail.com.

ADOPTION HOURS

Shelter adoption hours are Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, except the first Sunday of the month.

For more information on adoptions, please call 770.499.2287 or email adopt@goodmews.org.

KIBBLES



Two of our most popular annual fundraisers are returning this



summer: Brews for Mews and Pins for Paws! Details will be available online in the coming weeks. Don't forget to sign up for Mews News, our e-newsletter, to receive important updates about these and other events!

CONTACT US

For more information about our shelter, how to adopt, how to contribute, or upcoming fundraisers, please contact us via the following:

Address:
Good Mews Animal Foundation
3805 Robinson Road
Marietta, GA 30068

Phone: 770.499.CATS (2287)

Web site: www.goodmews.org

Email: info@goodmews.org



Good Mews is thrilled to receive a Spring 2017 grant from Athletes For Animals! A4A is a team of

professional athletes with a shared passion for rescuing and protecting the welfare of homeless pets. Representing sports teams across the U.S., the A4A athletes strive to make an impact on the lives of homeless animals. We're proud to be among the organizations that have received a grant. The Good Mews kitties send their sincerest thanks to A4A!

calendar

June 4 New Volunteer Orientation, *at the shelter*

June 7 Passion for Paws event, *at Southern Gentleman*

June 10 Kitten Shower, *at the shelter*

June 23 Brews for Mews, *Red Hare Brewing Company*

July 5 New Volunteer Orientation, *at the shelter*

July 5 Pet Education Project event, *at the shelter*

July 30 Pins for Paws, *AMF Marietta*

Aug 2 New Volunteer Orientation, *at the shelter*

Aug 6 Microchip and Vaccination Clinic, *at the shelter*

Sept 23 Best Friends Animal Society's Strut Your Mutt

Nov 11 Annual Auction & Gala, *Le Fais Do Do*

**Please check our website to confirm dates, times, and location.*

g o o d m e w s

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Marietta, GA 30068

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