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Uniform Standards For Aviculture

—A Light at the
End of the Tunnel?—

By Richard E. Baer, D.V.M.
Special Advisor for A.F.A.

The large outbreak in poultry of Exotic Newcastle Disease (VVND) which occurred in California in 1972 projected for the egg and poultry producer a nightmarish vision of the economic disaster that could befall that business and the country's supply of eggs and poultry were this destructive disease to become established in the United States. Outbreaks had occurred in poultry flocks before in other states, but they were never of the magnitude of the one in California and they were brought under control. Eradication was achieved, too, in California by emergency measures, but only after 1,341 infected or exposed flocks containing some 12 million infected or exposed birds were destroyed at the staggering cost to the American taxpayer of over \$56,000,000.00!

Exotic cage and aviary birds were implicated as a possible source of the costly outbreak and the repercussions against bird importers and keepers were drastic.

Before this outbreak, the U.S. permitted the unrestricted importation of exotic birds. After the outbreak, an embargo was placed on all importations. A year later, as a control measure, U.S.D.A. proposed rules and established Federally supervised privately owned quarantine stations for the importation of exotic birds.

The creation of these privately owned quarantine stations was a mixed blessing for the bird breeder and keeper. They did provide the bird breeder and dealer with a source of birds which had been under official surveillance for at least 30 days and were found to be without evidence of VVND. Legally imported birds provided assurance to the poultry industry, too, that birds coming into the country by this route were VVND free. No bird with exotic Newcastle disease has ever been legally released from a Federally supervised quarantine station.



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At one time, there were approximately one hundred of these Federally supervised privately owned quarantine stations. Unfortunately, not all of the owners were honest. VVND infected birds did pass through some of their hands and into commercial traffic. There were also VVND-diseased, illegal, smuggled birds which found their way into the country; infected exotic bird flocks; and posed a threat to the poultry industry.

Whenever such infection was found in cage and aviary bird flocks, it was dealt with harshly. Whole flocks were destroyed solely on the basis of suspicion of exposure. Bird keepers in the country were agitated by this apparently needless destruction of bird wildlife. Their concern gave birth to the American Federation of Aviculture.

In the 1977 outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in cage and aviary birds, A.F.A., after arbitration with U.S.D.A. failed, filed first a temporary restraining order in Federal Court in San Diego to try to halt the killing of birds only on the basis of suspicion. Then it went on to instigate litigation to have the Department of Agriculture change its eradication policies. Aviculture was deeply at odds with the Department of Agriculture.

In early 1979 the differences were settled out of court and the depopulation was modified (A.F.A. Watchbird, Vol. VI, No. 6, Dec./Jan. '80). The two former adversaries embarked on a course of understanding and cooperation.

No such understanding yet existed between the poultry people and the aviculturist. They remained at log-gerheads.

In 1978 the president of A.F.A. was invited by the United States Animal Health Association to address their Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry on *The Problems of Aviculture*. The U.S.A.H.A. Committee on the Transmissible Disease of Poultry is made up of representatives of the poultry industry; and U.S.A.H.A. itself is the representative body of the livestock regulatory personnel from all of the fifty states together with livestock research people and livestock industry delegates. It serves in an advisory capacity to U.S.D.A.

The presentation provided a forum where the problems of the cage and aviary and pet bird industries were aired before an influential poultry industry group. The immediate result was the establishment by the full committee of a subcommittee on Diseases of Cage and Aviary Birds (A.F.A. Watchbird, Vol.

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VI, No. 1, Feb./Mar. '79).

In 1979, the Committee, after hearing the subcommittee report, recommended that expanded and strengthened instruction by veterinary colleges in avian medicine should be emphasized; and proposed that a positive promotional rather than a negative restrictive strategy towards a national supply of safe healthy birds be developed (A.F.A. Watchbird, Vol. VII, No. 1, Feb./Mar. '80).

At its 1980 84th annual meeting the committee passed a motion of support for the establishment of a mechanism for formal dialogue (i.e. a symposium) between the pet bird and poultry industry, regulatory and research people on the problem of VVND eradication; and further went on record with "The committee favors the encouragement by government of the domestic captive propagation of cage and aviary birds (A.F.A. Watchbird, Vol. VII, No. 6, Dec./Jan. '81).

Of interest to aviculturists at the U.S.A.H.A.'s annual meeting of the following year (1981) was the change of the name of its Committee On Transmissible Diseases of Poultry to the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species, and a resolution to establish a subcommittee to prepare a model state program for pet birds.

The inclusion of "Other Avian Species" in the scope of responsibility of this committee of the U.S.A.H.A. gives recognition by this national regulatory and research body to the multibillion dollar cage and aviary and pet bird industries and acknowledgement that the problems of these industries are intermixed with and affect those of the poultry industry.

The establishment of a U.S.A.H.A. subcommittee to prepare a Model State Program for Pet Birds (later designated as The National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan) was a natural development from the discussions and proposals of the committee at its previous annual meeting.

The National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan subcommittee (N.C.A.B.I.P.) has met on several occasions this past year and at the U.S.A.H.A. national meeting last October presented its first report.

The N.C.A.B.I.P. subcommittee is composed of representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Veterinary Services), bird breeders (A.F.A.), practicing veterinarians (A.A.V.), pet shop owners, the pet industry (P.I.J.A.C.) and the poultry industry (N.P.I.P.).

The stated purpose of the Improve-

ment Plan is to provide a series of voluntary cooperative steps whereby breeders, producers and distributors of cage and aviary birds and poultry can significantly improve, together, the overall health and well-being of their birds and provide protection against the major direct and indirect ravages of viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease, chlamydiosis (psitticosis), Pacheco's disease, pox and other avian diseases. Its further purposes are: To curtail the movement of illegally imported birds by broad involvement of all sectors of the cage and aviary bird industry in a recognizable, approved, self-regulated, voluntary, state-federally supervised program of health-security, record keeping, and bird identification. To encourage uniform cage and aviary bird regulations among states and federal governments and: To facilitate interstate movement of cage and aviary birds of those voluntarily participating in the Plan.

The program is modeled after the popular, highly efficient National Poultry Improvement Plan (N.P.I.P.) which, since its establishment on July 1, 1935, has stimulated significant improvements in poultry health with minimal cost to the taxpayer and the consumer. The N.P.I.P. has fostered an economically viable and competitive industry. Similarly, the cage and aviary bird industry, having reached an advanced stage in its development, must recognize the desirability of their involvement in and adoption of a like plan whereby it, too, may insure and encourage its growth through the establishment of standards and procedures that are approved by industry, government and the scientific community.

The proposed program could possibly come under a portion of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944, as amended (7 U.S.C. 429), but different from those authorizing the N.P.I.P.

Its objective would be to provide a cooperative State-Federal program through which new technology could be effectively applied to the improvement of cage and aviary birds throughout the country. The provisions of the program would be developed jointly by industry members together with State and Federal officials. They would establish standards for the evaluation of cage and aviary birds with respect to sanitation and the control of certain contagious and infectious diseases of birds and poultry. Participants and birds conforming to N.C.A.B.I.P. standards would be identified by authorized terms (i.e. designations and/or seals of approval) that would be uniformly applicable in all



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A national cage and aviary bird improvement plan moved one step closer with an industry, state, and federal committee meeting in Hyattsville, Md., in March. This group is writing a proposal, which will be circulated to all segments of the cage and aviary bird industry, aimed at getting the plan underway.

In the photo, from left to right (front): Ray Schar, senior coordinator of the National Poultry Improvement Plan; Ruth Hanessian, American Federation of Aviculture state coordinator; Dr. Ed. Mallinson, University of Maryland; Dr. Howard Kahan, chairman of the U.S. Animal Health Association bird committee; Dr. Ken Hook, associate deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Marshall Meyer, executive secretary of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council; and Dr. Dick Baer, AFA director.

Back row: Dr. Harvey Kryder, APHIS import staff; Felicia Lovlett, AFA committee on endangered species; Bill Cooper, AFA committee on ethics; Steve King, PIJAC attorney; Dr. John Williams, APHIS avian disease staff; Dr. Irv Peterson, APHIS avian disease staff; Dr. Sam Richeson, APHIS import bird staff; Wade Richey, APHIS import bird staff; Dr. Glen Schubert, APHIS special diseases staff; and Dr. Wayne Sanderson, APHIS bird import supervisor.

parts of the country.

Any changes from time to time in the provisions of the proposed plan to conform with the development of the industry or to utilize new information as it becomes available, would be based upon recommendations made at a national program conference by those official delegates representing participating *aviculturists, importers, jobbers and retailers* from all cooperating states.

Acceptance of the N.C.A.B.I.P. would be optional with the states and with the individual members of the industry who wish to join within the states. The program would be administered in each state by an Official State Agency cooperating with U.S.D.A. Provisions would be made for suspension, revocation and/or denial from participation in a fair, prompt manner for any members found in violation of the Plan's provisions.

The Plan would be self supporting with funds coming from the National level (4%) and the balance (96%) from state and member participants.

The Plan envisions beginning first with a program involving sanitation and health management standards, record keeping and identification. "U.S. Registered" or a similar classification

would be awarded to those facilities and individuals in compliance with the standards.

Subsequent attention would focus on control of such contagious and infectious diseases as VVND, Pacheco's disease, pox, chlamydia (psittacosis) and other avian diseases.

To establish uniform cage and aviary bird regulations among the state and federal government is another goal of the program; and to facilitate interstate movement of the cage and aviary birds of those participating in the plan is an objective that the planners of the program hope to achieve to serve as a further inducement for aviculturists to participate.

It is emphasized that the American Federation of Aviculture is not the sponsor of the National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan, but is a supporter of it along with the poultry industry and the pet industry.

At the 1982 National Plans (N.P.I.P.) conference, the 87 voting delegates present *unanimously* adopted the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED, that the assembled delegates instruct Mr. Ray Schar (Senior Coordinator N.P.I.P.) and the staff of the National Poultry Improvement Plan together with the General Conference Committee take all

such cooperative actions as are necessary to aid the Pet Bird Industry in its laudable attempts to organize a National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan."

This is strong support for the cage and aviary bird industry from the poultry industry.

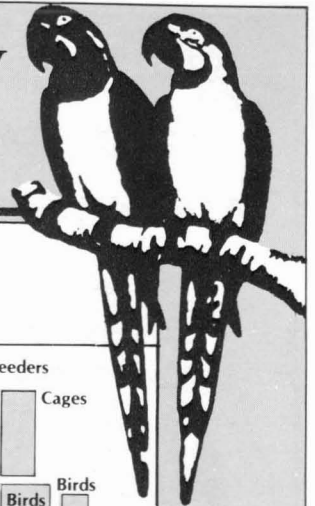
Further support from the poultry industry came from the Western poultry producers: The Pacific Egg and Poultry Association (PePa) hosted a Pet Bird/Poultry Industry Regulatory Symposium in California in May 1982. At the symposium, A PePa Pet Bird Steering Committee was formed for the purpose of continuing dialogue which would maintain open lines of communication between both industries and with regulatory officials.

The consensus is that the cage and aviary bird industry and the poultry industry have problems of tremendous economic importance to one another. The conclusion by both industries is that these problems can only be resolved through cooperation and that a National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan is a constructive movement forward towards the resolution of these problems.

The sponsor of the National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan is the

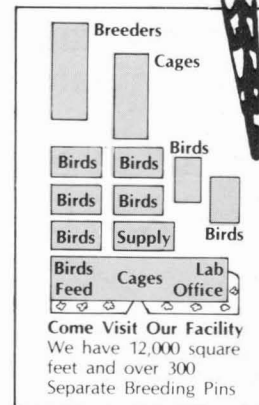
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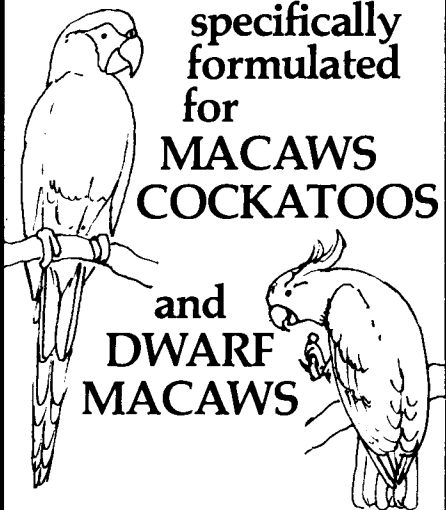
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subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association. It presented its report to the Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species at the 1982 meeting of the U.S.A.H.A. The full committee then passed the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT, U.S.D.A. should endorse the proposed National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan (N.C.A.B.I.P.) through assignment of personnel and necessary resources to speed and further advance the development and implementation of the N.C.A.B.I.P."

The resolution was approved by the entire United States Animal Health Association and forwarded by that organization to U.S.D.A. Secretary, John Block, for action.

What can a National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan offer the bird breeder?:

1. **Reputability.** By participating in the Plan and complying with the sanitation and health standards of the initial program, the bird breeder manifests that he is producing quality stock under officially supervised guidelines and because of this has been accorded official recognition and/or seal of approval. An authorized designation awarded to the participant can be used in advertising.

Buyers who want quality birds raised under approved conditions will buy from these sources with confidence.

2. **Disease Control.** As the Plan progresses to include control of contagious and infectious diseases as elected by those participating in the program, the Plan will protect the bird breeder against the ravages of such diseases as viserotropic velogenic Newcastle disease, chlamydiosis (Psittacosis), Pacheco's disease, pox and other avian diseases.

As new technology provides rapid and practical testing methods for these diseases, they will effectively be applied to the improvement of cage and aviary birds in the country.

No longer will the bird buyer have to wonder which importer, jobber, pet shop owner or bird breeder is trustworthy, which is not. You will be able to buy healthy, disease-free birds with relative safety by making purchases from those who advertise as participating in the Plan, their participation being a reference of their credibility.

The establishment of standards and procedures approved by the bird industry working together with government and the scientific community will do much to control the traffic in illegally imported birds by the very fact of the broad involvement of all sectors of the

cage and aviary bird industry in a recognizable, approved, self-regulated, voluntary, state-federal cooperatively supervised program of health-security, record keeping, and bird identification. This will greatly lessen the danger of exposure of the poultry industry to disease infected exotic birds and further promote cooperation between the industries.

3. **Uniform State Regulations.** The involvement of all sectors of the cage and aviary bird industry in a National Improvement Plan and the easing of the threat of diseased exotic birds to the poultry industry will enable the evolution in the Plan of the encouragement of the states and federal government to develop uniform cage and aviary bird regulations within the states and for interstate shipment. This will eliminate the hodge-podge of different state restrictions which are so frustrating and impede the orderly development of the bird industry and of domestic captive breeding.

Breeders who participate in the Plan should be allowed more flexibility in the interstate shipment of their birds as an incentive for their participation.

What can the aviculturist do to promote a National Cage and Aviary Bird Improvement Plan?

The aviculturists can make their support known by writing as an individual and by having their avicultural society or bird club express their sentiment in writing to the following persons:

Hon. John R. Black
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Administration Building
Washington, D.C. 20250

James O. Lee, Jr.
Acting Adm., Animal & Plant
Health Inspection Service
Agriculture Administration Building
Washington, D.C. 20250

The communications need only be simple statements of support for the implementation of N.C.A.B.I.P. You may want to send a copy of your letters to the Chairman of the subcommittee on the Model State Program for Pet Birds:

Dr. I. Howard Kahan
Delaware Valley College of Science
& Agriculture
Doylestown, PA 18901

The Plan can be further promoted by you by informing other bird breeders about it and by scheduling the Plan as a topic for discussion on the agenda of the next meeting of your avian organizations.

Fanciers of birds other than those classed as "cage and aviary," such as

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Port Lincolns
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Pileated (Red capped)
Yellow rosellas
Many-colored
Bourke's
Roseate cockatoos
Cockatoos

Green rosellas
Adelaide rosellas
Blue-winged
Barrabands
Rock pebbblars
Princess of Wales
Pennant rosellas
Blue rosellas
Stanley rosellas
Golden mantled rosellas
Lories
Lorikeets
Lovebirds
Lovebird color mutations
Red-fronted kakariki

Yellow-fronted kakariki
Red rumps
Yellow red rumps
Tanagers
Sunbirds
Hummingbirds
Australian, Asian, & African finches
African & Asian starlings & mynahs
Toucans
Hornbills
Cranes
Shama & Dhyal thrushes
rare softbills
Barbets
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Craig Hendee

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pigeons, raptors, etc., should be told of
the Plan and its potential benefits and
asked to support it.

All avian publications should be urged
to publish articles on the Improvement
Plan and what it would accomplish.
They can gather their own reportorial
facts, if they wish, by contacting Dr.
Kahan, the subcommittee chairman. He
would be happy to answer any questions
they may have.

If the support of the aviculturist is
combined with that of the importer, the
jobber, and the retailer for a Bird Im-
provement Plan, the cage and aviary bird
industry can embark upon a program
which will not only lead to significant
improvement in the health of birds, but
will also create a self-sufficient
avicultural industry in the United States
that is an economically viable source of
birds. ●

SHOWS & NOTICES

Central Ohio Bird Fanciers, Inc. Annual Show

October 14, 15, 16, 1983

Contact: Pete Vincken
6140 Clover Valley Road
Johnstown, OH 43031

American Pet Show

July 9th and 10th, 1983

Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California

Final plans for 1983 raffle:

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Sixteen \$50 rebates on purchases
in pet shops.

Tickets are available for donations of
\$1 per ticket or
packs of 30 tickets for \$25.
Drawing will be held
Sunday, July 10, 1983

Winners need not be present.

For additional information contact:
American Pet Society, P.O. Box 265,
Danville, CA 94526. ph (415) 837-1361

Missouri Cage Bird Association

7th Annual Bird Fair

Kolping House
4035 Keokuk Avenue
St. Louis, MO

September 18, 1983

Contact: Eileen Karius
1111 Dover Place
St. Louis, MO 63111
(314) 351-2580

Greater Pittsburgh Cage Bird Society

Annual Show

Ramada Inn North
Gibsonia, PA

October 29, 1983

Contact: Ginny Yeager
2937 Kilcairn Lane
Allison Park, PA 15101

35th National Cage Bird Show

Regency Hotel
Denver, CO

November 18, 19, 20, 1983

Contact: Kevin Wirick
748 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 623-5959

Minnesota Cage Bird Association 7th Annual Exotic Cage Bird Show

at Bursville Shopping Mall

September 24, 1983

Contact: Bonnie Knobloch
1071 Mooney Drive
New Brighton, MN 55112

Fresno Canary and Finch Club 20th Annual Young Bird Show

at Hacienda Inn.

Clinton Ave. & Hwy. 99
Fresno, CA

October 28, 29, 30, 1983

Contact: Mary Van
601 West Cross Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274
(209) 686-5921

Gulf South Bird Club 5th Annual All Bird Show

New Orleans Airport Hilton
901 Airline Hwy.

October 15, 16, 1983

Contact: Julia K. Nagel
603 Deslonde Street
New Orleans, LA 70117

Suncoast Avian Society 8th Annual Bird Show

at Princess Martha Hotel
St. Petersburg, FL

Regular show on Sat., 22nd
Pet Bird show on Sun., 23rd

October 22 & 23, 1983

Contact: Phyllis Martin
4483 Gandy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33611
(813) 839-4751

Maryland Cage-Bird Society Fall Bird Show

at Catonsville Quality Inns
Rt. 40, Baltimore Natl. Pike

Exit 15A off Balt. Beltway (I-695)

October 14, 15, 16, 1983

Contact: Jane E. Colson
5341A Carriage Court
Baltimore, MD 21229
(301) 525-2827

Missouri Cage Bird Association Annual Open Show

Harley House Hotel of St. Louis
13440 Riverglen Drive,

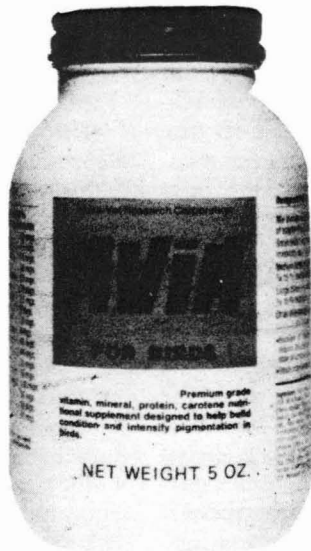
Earth City, MO

November 4, 5, 1983

Contact: Sandy Simpson
1308 Primrose Drive
Arnold, MO 63010

Analysis per 3.5 grams (approximately one teaspoon)

A	600 IU
Carotene	0.365 mg.
Cantha-xanthin	1.8 mgs.
D ₃	60 IU
Arginine	32 mgs.
Histidine	13 mgs.
Isoleucine	24 mgs.
Leucine	33 mgs.
Phenylalanine	30 mgs.
Tyrosine	33 mgs.
Methionine	12 mgs.
Cystine	8 mgs.
Threonine	33 mgs.
Tryptophane	9 mgs.
Valine	40 mgs.
Lysine	44 mgs.
Alanine	30 mgs.
Aspartic Acid	50 mgs.
Glutamic Acid	140 mgs.
Glycine	36 mgs.



E	10 IU	Niacinamide	3.7 mgs.
K	0.001 mg.	P.A.B.A.	2 mgs.
C	6 mgs.	Biotin	0.003 mg.
Bioflavanoid		Calcium	170 mgs.
Complex	0.85 mg.	Phosphorus	170 mgs.
Hesperidine		Magnesium	7.3 mgs.
Complex	0.735 mg.	Potassium	
Rutin	0.365 mg.	Chloride	39 mgs.
B ₁	0.5 mgs.	Sodium	
B ₂	0.5 mgs.	Chloride	25 mgs.
B ₆	0.5 mgs.	Manganese	0.069 mg.
B ₁₂	0.001 mg.	Cobalt	Trace
Choline	7.8 mgs.	Silicon	Trace
Inositol	7.8 mgs.	Iron	0.7 mgs.
		Copper	0.037 mg.
		Iodine	0.008 mg.
		Zinc	0.245 mg.
		Proline	39 mgs.
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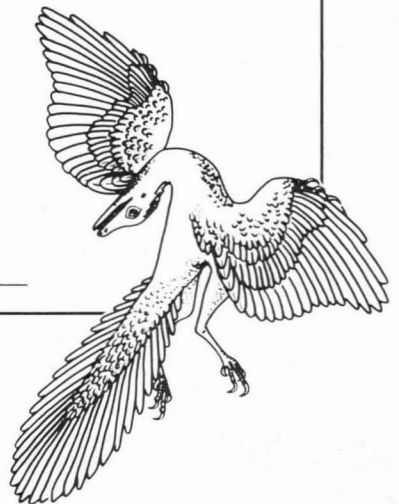
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