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Dr. Dede Armentrout (Southwest Regional Vice President of the National Audubon Society (NAS)) spoke on predator control at a regional conference of that group last year. Our spy reports these pearls of wisdom from the learned doctor.

She stated that hunter's reduction of the prey base for the coyotes along with the release of defenseless livestock into the wild is the cause of the predator problem. The ranchers then expect the taxpayer to subsidize their ranching operations by providing predator control. Further, livestock producers are pushing for preventative control, killing coyotes even when they are not killing sheep. She did say that predator control would probably be worse if private ranchers performed their own control.

Since Nixon's 1972 ban on predicides, all U.S. Presidents have kept the ban until Reagan revoked it in 1982. She also pointed out the coyote-getter (M-44) has been renamed the "condor-getter". Armentrout attacked past, present, and future use of 1080. She mentioned a study which showed after 3 years of coyote control using 1080, predation actually increased (documentation ?). Regarding the statement that 1080 has caused no human fatalities when used in predator control, she equated that with allowing hand grenades at football games because nobody at a game was ever killed by a grenade (she really stretched for that one).

Domestic dogs poisoned with 1080 contaminate the human environment with 1080-laced vomitus. In one instance a dog vomited 1080 in a house. Six months later, the vomitus killed another dog. "We don't know how long 1080 contaminated residue persists in the environment."

"Predator control has been grossly ineffective. Killing predators does not solve the problem", Armentrout stated. Ranchers consistently overstate losses, and equate scavenging with predation. Every scientific study has shown losses are always much less than ranchers claim (I know of a couple that didn't). Two to three times more livestock die from natural causes than predation. In fact, only 2% of sheep and goats are killed by all predators, and in the worst areas only 5%. Supervision of federal trappers is limited or non-existent and she inferred that wolves and grizzly bears were placed on the endangered species because of ADC activities.

She urged NAS members to bring pressure on Congress, etc. to emphasize the need for non-lethal methods of control and effective husbandry practices. Ranchers on federal lands should be willing to tolerate more losses in exchange for grazing fees
one/sixth of those on private lands. As most predation losses are doubled or tripled by ranchers there is a need to educate them to recognize legitimate predator kills. Thanx to Bob Schmidt, Univ. Calif.-Davis.

Happiness is holding a garage sale and your first customer is the Pentagon.

CONTINUING SAGA OF CLOSING OLYMPIA/BEND RESEARCH STATIONS

RDI Willard Nelson had a reply from Senator Hatfield indicating the Forest Service apparently dropped the ball by not funding the projects when the USFWS indicated it wanted out. He expressed the hope that funds would be available through the Forest Service before the facilities were phased out. Congressman Bob Smith indicated he would push for refunding during the first supplemental appropriations measure before the House. He also enclosed a letter from Dick Smith (USFWS) which is an insight to FWS 'logic' - "The FWS recommended closure of these stations because of fewer dollars, higher agency priorities (more ducks), and because the stations have made excellent progress in producing cost effective and environmentally safe methods for alleviating mammal damage to forests" (that's the trouble with doing a good job). "We are making every effort to place all personnel at these stations with the FWS." (Having visited the installations, it would appear more cost effective to shift the mission of the station personnel to "more critical research and management needs" and retain the station facilities.)

Ulcers show you care.

NEW SHEEP DEPREDATION CONTROL METHOD

Viola Bates runs the 5-acre North American Wildlife Center, Inc. rehabilitating incapacitated wildlife. When a child she was given a 6-week old coyote that she never chained or locked up, "He ended up being the best sheep dog we had, but I was too young to realize at the time what we were doing." Later in life she conducted a "dozen experiments" - successfully raising coyotes to be sheep dogs. "Most sheep that are killed are done so by dogs." She recalls rehabilitating two coyotes who were healed and almost ready to return to the wild when she was given a day and a half old lamb, called "Lambchops". As an experiment she put the lamb in with the coyotes and (I've got to use her words as I'm too choked up over this pretty picture) - "I stayed out there and watched. The coyotes walked over, and they washed the little lamb and they kissed it. Eventually they raised that lamb." (Gets you right there, doesn't it ?)

Bates claims coyotes can be bred and trained to be sheep dogs because they are "territorial". When another coyote comes in, he knows the territory has been claimed so he backs off. It is better to use only one coyote to guard a band. Viola says when she gets more facilities she will breed coyotes for sheep dogs. "I want to be able to give the shepherd a pup so that the pup knows who he is. You don't raise him like a dog. You don't try to house break him. You feed him along with the dogs, but you don't chain or lock him up. He'll stay there; you don't need to worry." Thanx to Guy Connolly USFWS, Twin Falls, ID. In his covering letter Guy says, "I know you too will thrill to the thought of this new discovery. Truly the bounds of knowledge are limited only by our own narrow-mindedness !

I've met a few people who were enthusiastic about hard work. It was just my luck that all of them happened to be men I was working for at the time.

HUM ??

In the May issue of FIELD & STREAM (1984) there is an article on the effect shooting has on your hearing. The Shooting Editor, Bob Brister, made some excellent points that hunters who carefully protect themselves on the shooting range don't do so when hunting. Most hunters experience the worst hearing loss in the ear on the off-side
of the gun (the left ear to us right-handers), probably because that ear is a little closer the muzzle and slightly to the side of it where the blast is greater than directly behind.

He makes the point that you may not think you shoot much, but individual sensitivity varies considerably. And that like non-smokers you are getting 'benefits' from those participating around you. Regarding the objection of not hearing game sounds while wearing ear plugs, he points out you will shoot better with ear plugs and just how much does hearing all those sounds in the future mean to you now?

He points out that the best ear protectors are ones you will wear. For this he recommends the inexpensive foam or polymer ear plugs like E-A-R. They are yellow and look like a pencil eraser. You roll them to compress them so they can be easily inserted in the ear canal. They gradually swell up to block the canal. However, the soft molded custom-fitted plugs of silicone are undoubtedly better. If you will use them, the large, muff-type ear protectors probably are most effective in blocking the noise.

To bring this a little closer to home, all Oregon ADC personnel have now completed hearing tests. Above 50% of those tested have some form of hearing loss, a few quite severe. Thanx to Tom Nicholls USFWS Portland, OR.

The chicken and pig were arguing about the importance of ham and eggs to breakfast, when the pig said, "To you it's a donation, to me it's a commitment.

THE BOLD COYOTE
Hungry coyotes are prowling along the eastern slope of the Sierras in Nevada. They dragged away Nan Daly's (Silver Knolls) 12-year old Pekingese and 3-year old Persian cat. And they have dined on countless numbers of her exotic chickens. The only human attack reported was that of a man leaving the Chart House restaurant with a doggie bag. He had his hand bitten as coyote mugged him in the parking lot. Thanx to Guy Connolly USFWS, Twin Falls, ID.

Taxes are like golf - you drive your heart out for the green and end up in the hole.

THOSE SACRED BIRDS !
How is livestock protection carried out in the southern California range of the condor? Very carefully. They took 57 coyotes by chopper recently in 20 hours by using steel shot to prevent possible lead poisoning of the condors.

We've always had 2 classes - the have's and havenots. Now there is a third class - the have's who have not paid for it yet.

TEXAS TALES
A deer hunter near Ozona told DFA Carl Harris that while he was on a deer stand, a black panther emerged and started feeding on the corn around his feeder. An old ewe appeared and the panther chased it off, returning later with a pair of kittens. Carl had to tell the hunter that most people call those creatures - javelina.

Alan Sargeant (Wildlife Monograph #89) concluded the average annual take of adult ducks by fox in the midcontinent area was estimated at 900,000 ducks. Suppression of coyote numbers has led to an increase in fox populations and it is believed that fox have more impact on upland nesting ducks than coyotes. As agriculture intensifies and habitat dwindles, attention is focused on heightened production from remaining habitats. Managed duck nesting habitats are attractive to predators. This impact is often so overwhelming that it negates benefits from habitat management practices.
(In other words, predator control is important to proper refuge management - haven't we been saying that?) Thanx to THE TRAPLINE (Texas ADC, December 1984)

There's one good thing about today's popular songs - they're not popular very long.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE

Bob Timm writes that they exhausted the first printing of that volume in August, 1984, and a second printing should be available now. This will cost $22 (postpaid). This handbook was honored by the Natural Resources Council of America which called it the "outstanding book" for 1983. They expect to have a supplement (chapters on raptors, avian predators at aquaculture facilities, and bird hazards at airports) available later this year.

Hear of the housefly killed because it didn't know Flit from Shinola.

COYOTE LURE

We mentioned a new chemical lure developed by a retired Texas A&M chemistry professor that was supposed to be a super lure for male coyotes. A field test of this chemical ("Coyote Control" (CC)) was run by University of California researchers at the Hopland Field Station. This was compared with no odor (CTRL) and an odor standard (trimethylammonium decanoate (TMDT) formulated by the USDA-ARS as an effective coyote attractant.

During the tests, the coyotes spent 9x longer at TMDT than at CC. Coyotes spent over 50% of their time sniffing CC while only about 10% sniffing TMDT. TMDT evoked 26x more lick-chewing behavior than CC and 8x more biting behavior than CC (these are two important behaviors for attractants to get a response for M-44s, baits, etc.). The rub-rolling response was much higher for TMDT. While this is a negative behavior as it may disturb the trap set, the low response time is felt to be more a reflection on the relative unattractiveness of the two alternatives. The conclusions were that "Coyote Control" is not an effective lure, and is certainly not selective for male coyotes. Thanx to Jerry Scrivner University of California-Davis.

The key to success is sincerity; once you've learned to fake that, you've got it made!

AMERICA NEEDS A BETTER RAT!

Modern science has been making magnificent strides in recent years in all fields. Unfortunately, research to improve the quality of the common laboratory rat has failed far behind. No place in the world does there exist such a poor excuse for an experimental animal. It has no resistance to saccharin, cyclamates, nicotine, alcohol, ice cream, or the Pill. It cannot withstand a couple of meals of lasagna, chili, pickled eggs and beer nuts, washed down with a few Bloody Marys. Is this the animal we wish to have safe-guarding us from possible harm?

How can such a puny, sickly creature possibly be a surrogate for the typical urban dweller? If it weren't bad enough that the little rodent can't hold up under the rigors of modern living every time its eyes cross or its feet turn in, some scientist proclaims another product hazardous to a person's health. We must either replace this animal or resign ourselves to a life of nuts and berries. Perhaps a better indicator would be a western stockgrower capable of running all year on too little sleep, too much caffeine, nicotine, and protein, while all the time looking forward to another year of the same. Thanx to the WYOMING BULLSHEET and Randy Graham.

You should learn from the mistakes of others, since you will never be around long enough to make them all yourself.
**BRODIFACOUIM**

A *JORN. AMER. MED. ASSOC.* (1984) article (252 (21):3004) gives a case history of a psychotic female who ingested the "superwarfarin" rodenticide, Brodifacoum. The subject who had a history of suicide attempts, ate thirty 50-g packages of TALON G over a 2-day period. Assuming the woman weighed at least 100 pounds, the ingested amount of brodifacoum was about 2 mg/kg or nearly 10 times the lethal dose for rats. As her recovery was achieved even after a 5-day delay in starting antidote therapy, it would appear the extrapolation to humans from rat data is unrealistic. The article makes the point that while the standard treatment for 'warfarin' poisoning (plasma and vitamin K) are indicated, treatment for these more toxic anticoagulants requires very high doses of vitamin K for longer periods of time and continued monitoring of the prothrombin time. Thanx to Dale Kaukeinen, ICI Americas, Inc.

There's a new restaurant on the moon - good food...no atmosphere.

**THE FUTURE OF SPORHTHUNTING**

"Ignorance is a personal problem, but to take advantage of one's position to share that ignorance, and call it truth, is a social crime of monumental proportion." Wildlife is becoming a victim of social crimes by the well intended but unreasoning critics of hunting - crusaders who seek to force their moral standards on others who enjoy a time honored and legitimate form of outdoor recreation.

Everywhere we look, animal rights activists are cropping up like dandelions in an unkept lawn. We can treat dandelions with a herbicide and they will wither away, but Science hasn't developed an animalrighticide yet. The solution lies in ongoing educational programs. Perhaps we can't alter the opinions and emotional rhetoric of those whose wildlife expertise is derived from BAMBI and their fairytales, but we can expose our young people to the truths of wildlife management. We can teach youngsters to think about issues involving wildlife - not what to think. The future of sporthunting lies in education. Youth must be made aware of the fact that many species - some of which were rare in colonial times - are thriving today largely because of human influences on the environment.

Make no mistake about it. Well organized and well funded animal rights activists are coming - and coming on strong. They'll take up a placard and march on a moment's notice. Their talented attorneys will litigate any wildlife issue regardless of merit. While we deplore the prospect of having wildlife management programs encumbered by judicial review, the fact is, we live in an age of litigations where any person or group can seek injunctive relief through the courts without any validity to their stand. We are concerned that so much time, money, and manpower must be earmarked to argue and debate trivia when these resources could be better utilized. Thanx to RDIII Norton Miner and an editorial by Lantz Hoffman in the PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS, Dec. 1984.

Nothing increases your blood pressure more than a doctor who frowns while taking it.

**ALONG THESE LINES**

The Defenders of Wildlife (DW) group was in a bind. Alaskan officials were radio-tracking individual wolves back to their packs and shooting them from the air to save caribou and moose, but according to DW this was "biologically unsound and ethically irresponsible." The problem was they couldn't find allies in D.C. Most of the hunting was on state property so Interior couldn't get involved and wolves are not on the endangered list in Alaska.

Ah! but they found another way. Alaska was using Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-licensed radio equipment under an experimental program. So H. Frank Wright (I
never trusted a bureaucrat who uses an initial for a first name), chief of FCC's frequency liaison branch decreed: "The use of this equipment to locate the wolves for the purpose of killing them no longer constitutes a research project." The FCC ruling does not mean the Alaska hunt will be stopped, DW ruefully admits, but it will be less efficient. Thanx to RD VI Johnny Jones and the WASHINGTON POST 8 Jan. 85.

If you don't have ulcers yet, you're not taking your share of the problems around here.

TRAPPING ACTIVIST HANDBOOK

Tom Nicholls, USFWS Portland, OR sent a copy of an ad for CHANGING U.S. TRAPPING POLICY. While I dislike giving them advertising space this can be obtained for a buck from Defenders of Wildlife. It 'refutes' all claims made in defense of trapping and gives suggestions for activists who want to launch local campaigns against the leghold trap. Tom says it is useful to know what the enemy is thinking, but I hate to get my name on their sucker list as John Maestrelli did. They will overwhelm you with the vast amount of tripe they put out as that's where their money goes - begging for more money to fill their fat wallets with a miser's mite going to wildlife. John claims he sends back a load of rocks under their prepaid permits and lets them pay the extra charges.

Large, friendly dog for sale. Eats anything. Fond of children.

WHOSE THE GOAT?

- the taxpayer, of course. The Navy's attempt to get rid of the goats damaging the environment on San Clemente island made the news again. They were ordered by Weinberger to help FUND FOR ANIMALS do the job (if this is one of the projects Weinberger is protecting in the military budget, I say slash the defense budget.). A Navy officer is quoted privately, "...the Fund for Animals claims the credit for rescuing these goats, when the Navy is out there spending taxpayer dollars...How many people do you think know we've spent $174,000 over the last two years to capture goats and now we're going to spend another $47,000 and the problem still won't be resolved ?"

This of course doesn't bother fat ol' Cleveland Amory who counts this as a major accomplishment "...in changing government attitudes about killing wild animals." He says the Navy has no reason to bellyache as they were planning to spend $95,000 to kill the goats from helicopters. The Navy retorts, "We're going to have to spend that much more to kill the goats they don't catch. Thanx to RDVI Johnny Jones.

Invest in taxes. They're sure to go up !

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ IN THE PAPERS

Recently in southern California, a 73-year old man, sleeping in his camper was awakened when two 27-year old men started to beat him up. In the struggle he managed to get his .22 pistol and kill one while wounding the other. The body was found sprawled by the bumper which had a sticker - THIS CAR IS INSURED BY SMITH AND WESSON. The wounded one was arrested and charged with murder. In California law a person may be charged with murder if anyone dies during the commission of a felony even if they didn't physically commit the murder. This is a change ! It seems today, the law is more concerned with the criminal than the victim. Thanx to VP Homer Ford.

Near-sighted seagulls are bombing the Smith & Wesson headquarters in Springfield, MA. A new golf driving range set up on the grounds has furnished the gulls with the ammunition which they apparently think are clams. They try to break the shells by dropping them from the heights. However, they don't seem to distinguish between
white, red, yellow, or whatever balls. Thanx to RDVII Don Spencer.

Like an episode from Hitchcock's bird movie, bats forced a family to move from their condo in Oceanside, California. The fight started a year ago when the first bat entered an apartment through the fireplace. Gradually the colony built up despite "efforts" (?) by exterminators to stop the influx. Then last summer, the resident looked out his bedroom door and saw 15-20 of them hanging from the ceiling. He crawled out the window and looked in the living room window. There were 'hundreds' of bats flying around the house. He packed up and moved.

It is a great misfortune neither to have enough wit to talk nor enough judgment to be silent.

**ADC to USDA?**

Pres. George got another letter from Senator Symms (18 Jan. 1985) regarding this possible transfer:

"The Federal Animal Damage Control (ADC) program is currently administered by the USFWS. This agency, however, has not given high priority to predator control. The ADC program clearly conflicts with Interior's conservation responsibility (i.e. endangered species protection). Because of this, I am currently leading a Congressional effort to reestablish the ADC program within the USDA.

The USDA has already advanced the following goals for ADC:

1. A more extensive, integrated and coordinated predator control research program.
2. Reinstitution of the use of chemical toxicants (such as Compound 1080).
3. Added emphasis on the contribution of State Cooperative Extension Services to ADC efforts.

I have invited Senator Bacus, of Montana, to join me in urging the Secretary of Interior Clark to take action on this transfer...In addition, 25 other senators will be joining me on a similar letter to President Reagan. I hope to be reporting back to you on the success of these efforts in the near future."

It's curious that the period when traffic hardly moves is called the rush hour.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Hope somehow we can save THE PROBE. I enjoy it very much. Walter J. Boehm, USFWS, McLean, TX.

I was sorry (but not surprised) to hear that you fellows are thinking of shutting down NADCA. Am even sorrier, though, that I have no help or suggestions to make things better. You might be interested in the fact that 1080 is now registered in Alberta for 4 different modes of use (single dose bait, large meat baits, toxic collars, and lethal injections into fresh kills to which the coyotes may return). Guy Connolly USFWS Twin Falls, ID.

I just got off the phone to Ken Barker, Edgemont, SD, and President of South Dakota Woolgrowers Association. I told him about the possible disbanding of NADCA and as he was not aware of THE PROBE told him I'd get him a copy. Hopefully he can help in getting more members. I would like to help on the membership if you will send me a list of current members. I think many of the ADC trappers would sign up but if their supers don't let them know there is such a thing, they have no way of knowing what
they are missing. Jan Davis Colton, SD.

Am glad #48 caught up with me in the disarray of our move. We left Denver and the USFWS to work for the SD Game, Fish & Parks ADC program. We have got a good program up here with a Game Dept. that is sensitive to the needs and benefits of a good ADC program. Dave Nelson Pierre, SD.

It sure is upsetting not to have the support of your fellow workers. I felt George's letter hit the nail right on the head. Hopefully it will do some good, but I doubt it. The more I deal with people, the more it disturbing it can be. More and more people in 'general' wait for the other guy to do it. Then when things so sour they play the part of the seagull...eat, s... and squawk. I do want you, George and the rest of the folks working for NADCA to know that your efforts over the last 4 years have been appreciated by many of us. NADCA has pulled the fat out of the fire on several issues and supported many more. We do need the organization. Tom Nicholls USFWS Portland, OR.

Here's my late dues. Got the renewal notices during hunting seasons!! Sorry. Dick Thompson USFWS, Tallahassee, FL.

It was with deep regret and sadness that I read in the last PROBE that Rost had decided that you will be forced to discontinue NADCA and the PROBE at the end of the year. I can understand your problems and why you had to make that decision. Now I will have nothing to look forward to. I think the lack of interest by the ADC's (they are still MCA's to me) in not joining is due to the low morale in most areas. When there is no interest at the top it is bound to filter down. They have no incentive other than to put in their time and wait for the next restriction to prevent them from doing the job they were employed to do.

It was elated to read in the PROBE there is still a move afoot to transfer the ADC program from USDI to USDA. This would put the program in the hands of Agriculture where it belongs. In the 60's I tried to warn the livestock people in the Dakotas and Nebraska what would happen if they didn't get to some friends in Congress and advise them of their need for a predatory animal program staffed by trained personnel. Mark Worcester rtd. USFWS McGregor, MN.

THE BARE FACTS

Joe Helle claims to be a charter member of the "Montana Wool Growers Chapter of the Great Bear Foundation." The initiation fee is rather steep - feeding at least 50 sheep to a bear to qualify. When Joe lost 20 lambs and had 60 more unaccounted for he was understandably irritated when the State snared the grizzly, doped it, and released it on the grounds there was no way to move it. That slap on the wrist didn't prevent the griz from going back to the sheep. It was retrapped by Lee
Overcast USFWS and moved via helicopter to Yellowstone Park 90 miles away. But as it was radio-collared it was seen on its way back. There have been no grizzly reported in this area for 20 years.

The Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. reports that there have been an increased number of conflicts and sightings in areas where they have had no reports of bear activity before. The possible explanations include: more people venturing into the Greater Yellowstone area increasing the chances of sightings, a younger generation of bears who are not tied to old areas and thus maybe on the move, or there may be more bears. According to their Information Officer, "This new generation of bears appear less wary of humans." The actual number of grizzlies in Yellowstone Park now appears to number about 250.

In case you want to talk about it, there is a grizzly symposium planned for May 3-5, 1985 in Casper, WY. This is the second meeting and will focus on grizzly management programs, techniques, problems, and species status. For more information contact, W. R. Merschat (GRIZ '85), 732 South Grant Ave., Casper, WY 82601.

Never pet a bear until it becomes a rug.

**THE WILD WEST COMES TO MARYLAND**

How's this for a scenario? Let a half-ton buffalo roam for two weeks over 250 square miles of rural countryside and then - just as he is savoring the sweet taste of freedom - try to capture him. This western saga ran for two weeks in the richest suburban county in the country - Montgomery County in Maryland. The buffalo has eluded the best efforts of local police and state wildlife officials to capture him. He has two tranquilizer darts in his rump. The first one only made him drowsy. The second, more powerful one, made him run off into the woods. Understandably, nobody has claimed him. The authorities have had help from local outdoorsmen, a veterinarian, and a couple who generously offered their neighbor's polo ponies. Thanx to RDVI Johnny Jones

Old age is the time of life when we try to convince ourselves it's only a vitamin deficiency.

**BAMBI GETS IN THE WAY AGAIN**

An interesting situation developed last November on snooty Gibson Island - a 1000-acre exclusive bit of real estate on Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. As could be expected in such a protected environment the deer herd has grown to such proportions that most of the 177 residents were complaining about depredations on gardens and expensive landscaping. State wildlife authorities feel 60 deer on this area would be excessive and estimated the island held 80-100 deer. They tried to be quiet about a 2-day hunt but enemies within leaked it to the press and the PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (send me the names and addresses of any of these outfits you hear about as I want to make up a list) tried to get an injunction. But they stalled them with a promise of not hunting without notifying the PFETA and then slipped in a 1-day hunt. Big deal! They got 6 bucks and 2 does plus 3 deer killed by cars last year. Aldo Leopold should turn over in his grave at this fantasy of wildlife management. Spokeswoman for PFETA called this "...absolutely the scummiest trick..." as they were supposed to consider "alteratives" - relocation and sterilization of course. Thanx to RDVI Johnny Jones

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater
I appreciate hearing the expressions of dismay at the possible loss of NADCA from the field. Rost, Ford, and Miner are at the National Woolgrowers meeting in Reno this week so I hope they have been able to generate some interest.

Adios,

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

National Animal Damage Control Association

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