



# ***The Story of The Best Practice Playbook for Animal Shelters***

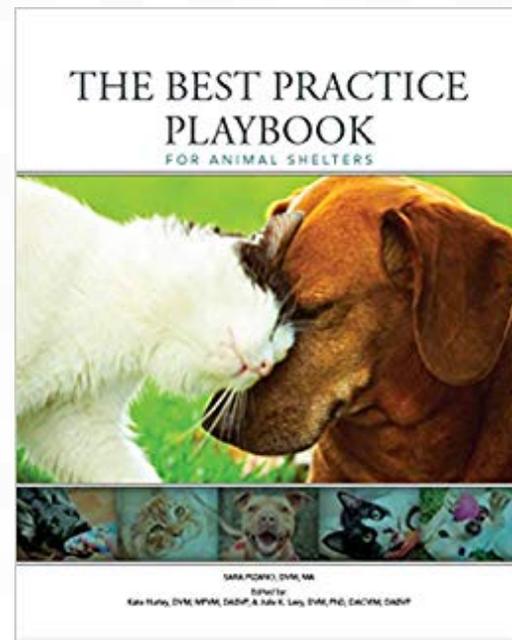
*SARA PIZANO, DVM, MA*

*TEAM SHELTER USA, LLC, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AND  
MILLION CAT CHALLENGE*



# My History

## CORE RECOMMENDATIONS



## TOP TEN: 'YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, WE ARE DIFFERENT'



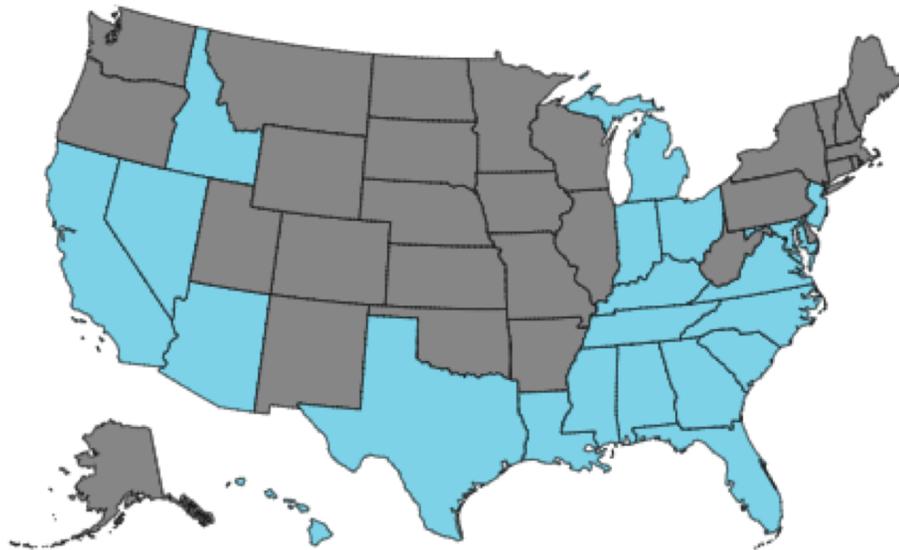
1. Our commissioners/community don't care about animals.
2. We don't have the money.
3. We don't have the shelter space.
4. We don't have the staff.
5. Our ordinances won't allow it.

## TOP TEN: 'YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, WE ARE DIFFERENT'



6. Our state law won't allow that.
7. Our attorneys won't agree to that/liability.
8. We have a lot of cats here!
9. We have a lot of pit bulls here!
10. We tried that and it didn't work.

## OVER 100 COMMUNITY & SHELTER ASSESSMENTS



21 states since 2013

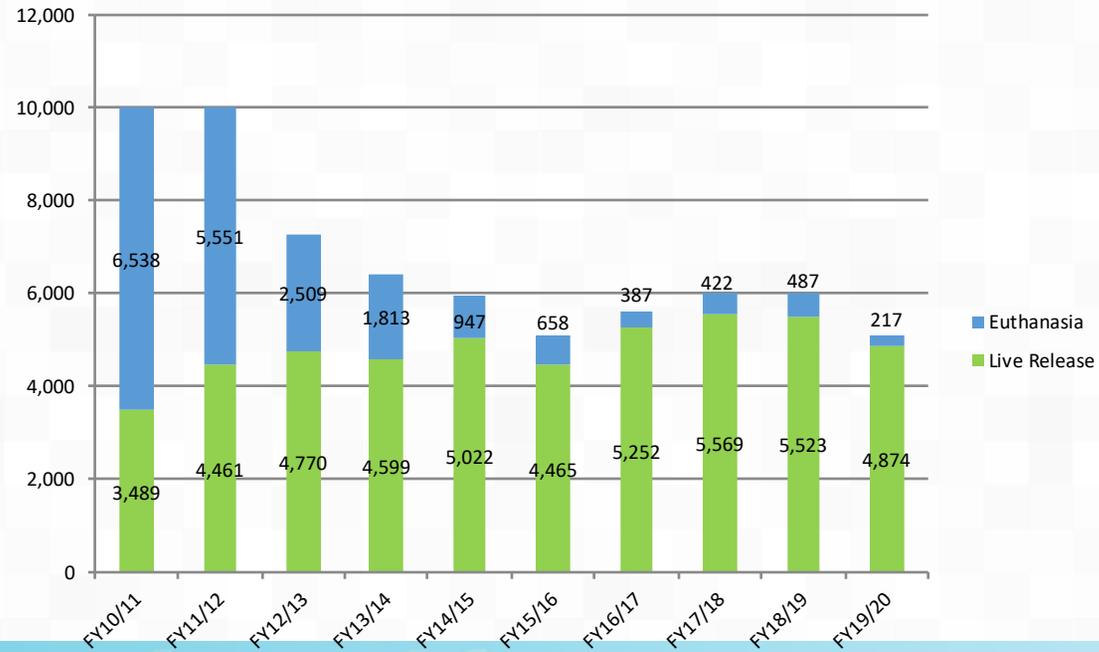
Rural, urban, large, small, high/low  
poverty rates

Only difference: latitude and  
longitude

**CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS  
ARE UNIVERSAL!**



## WACO, TEXAS (DOGS AND CATS)

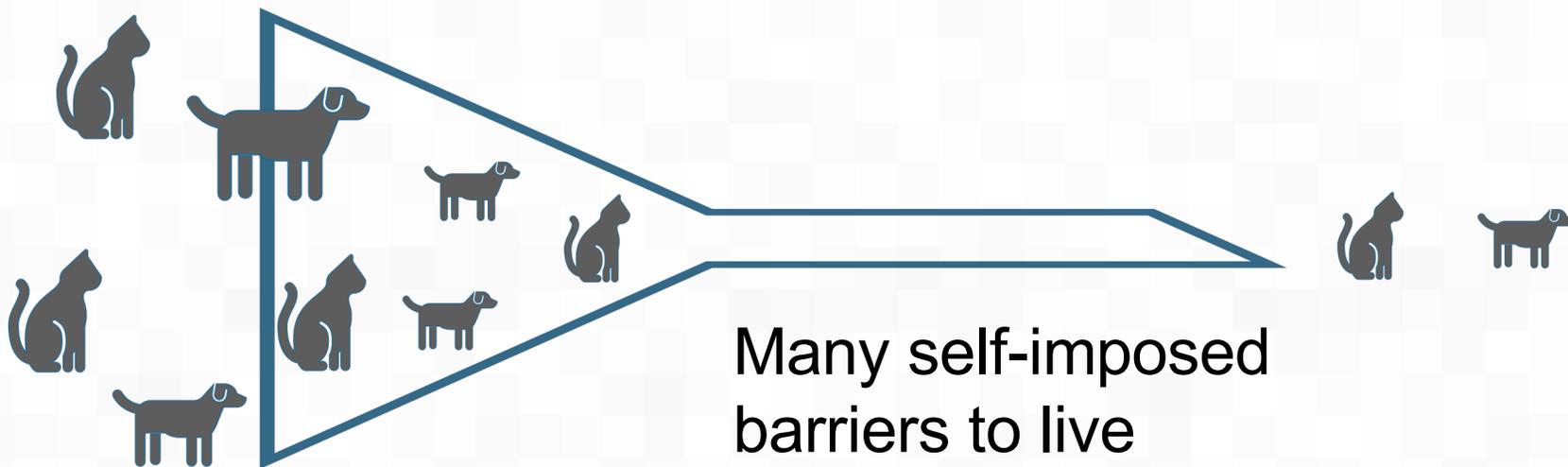




In just 18 of the shelters analyzed, **euthanasia decreased** by almost **48,000** animals the first year after the assessment compared to the year before.

## TRADITIONAL (FLAWED) OPEN ADMISSION SYSTEM

Minimal  
barriers  
to enter



Many self-imposed  
barriers to live  
outcome



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## ***WE ARE A PRODUCT OF OUR OWN MICROCOSM***



Our human brains automatically trigger then amplify the negative, worse case scenario

Our own fears are a barrier to lifesaving



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*Natural  
disasters/weather*

*A pandemic*

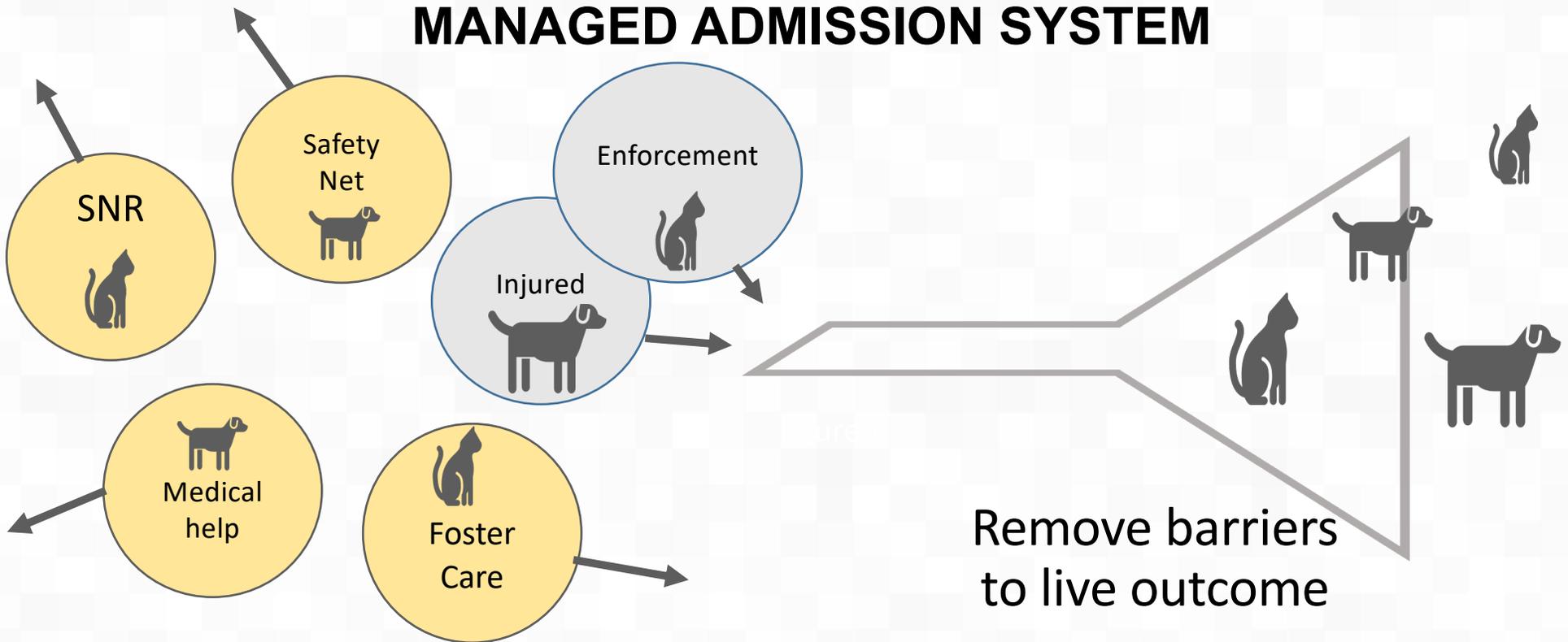
*Cruelty/hoarding  
cases*

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## MANAGED ADMISSION SYSTEM





## STRATEGIC USE OF RESOURCES

- ❖ Responsible Public Policy
- ❖ Targeted Spay/Neuter
- ❖ Managed Admission
- ❖ Safety Net
- ❖ Direct home-home

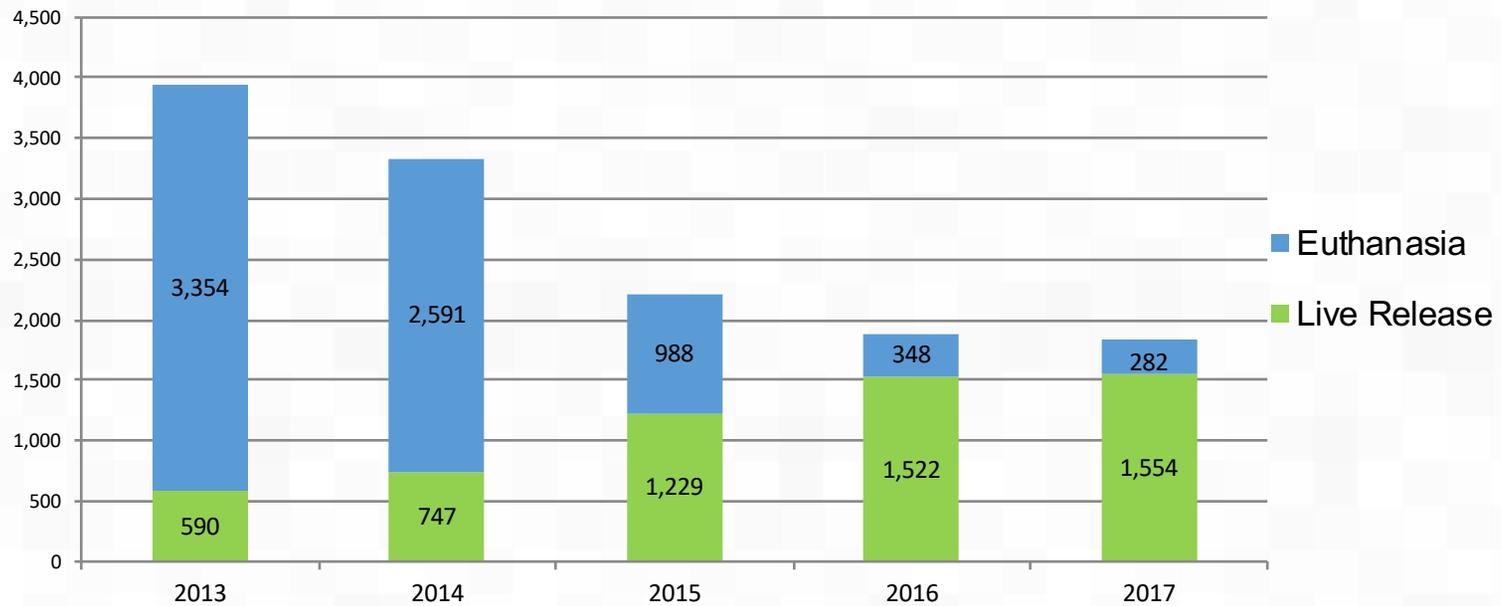
## STRATEGIC USE OF RESOURCES

- ❖ ***Community Cat Program***
- ❖ Good Sam Foster Care
- ❖ Open Adoptions
- ❖ Advocacy

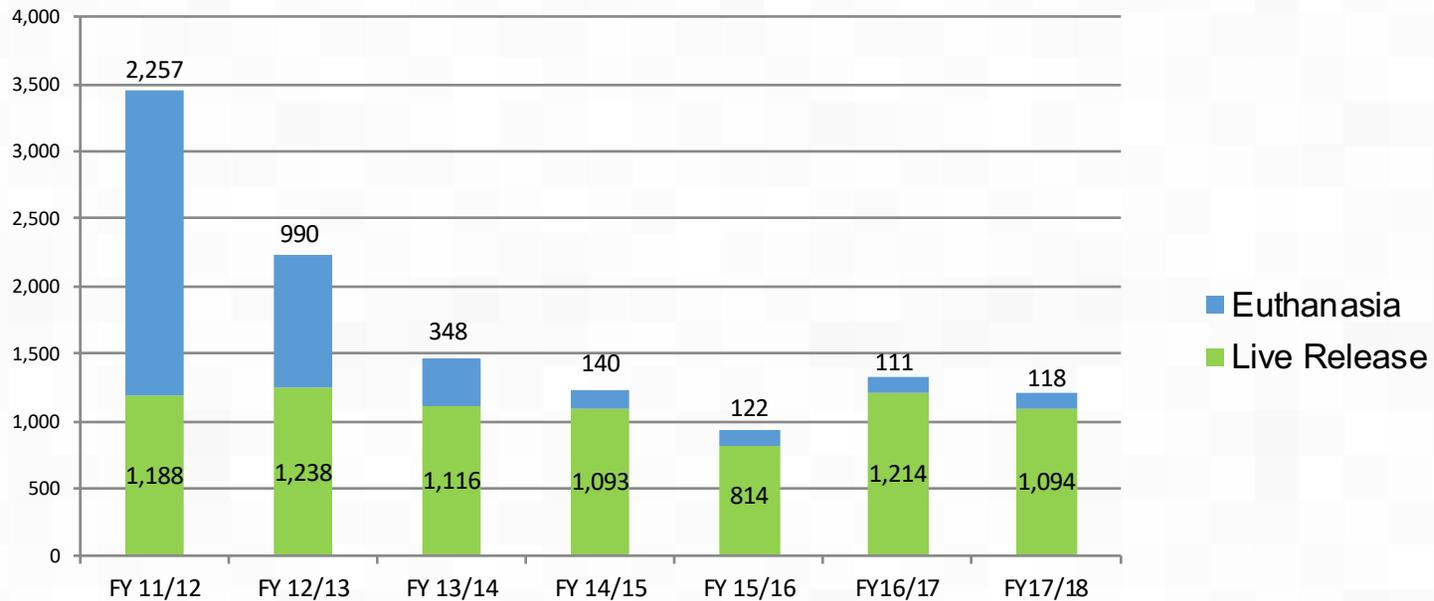




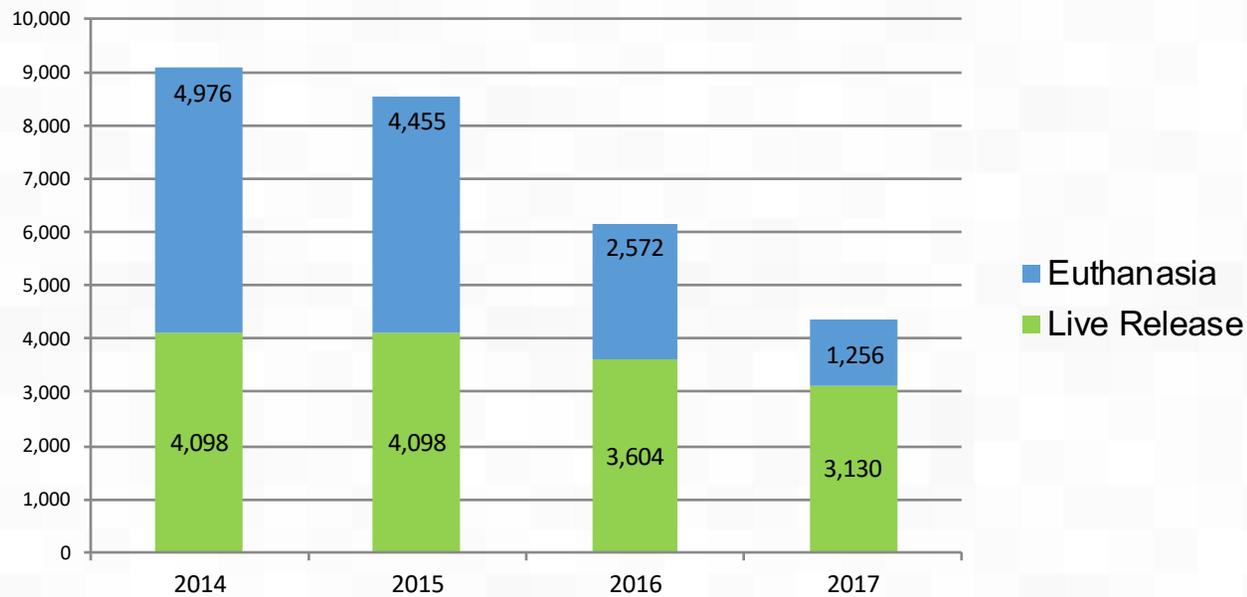
## OUTCOME FOR CATS: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



## OUTCOME FOR CATS: WACO, TEXAS



## OUTCOME FOR CATS: GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

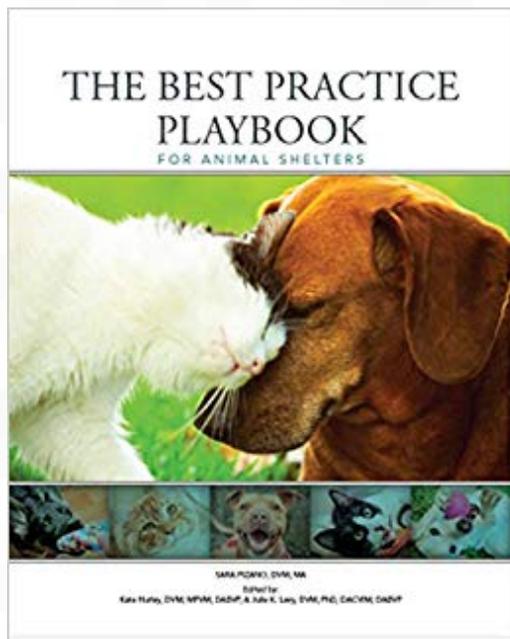


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**The playbook is my bible! I have so many sections highlighted, ear tipped pages and notes throughout. It's my go-to reference.**

*Cindy Avila, Madera Co., CA*

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**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!**



**Team Shelter USA**  
[Teamshelterusa.com](http://Teamshelterusa.com)

***The Best Practice Playbook  
for Animal Shelters***



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