

July 2008

SPECIAL EDITION

SUMMER 2008 ASSISTANCE DOG GRADUATION & PLACEMENT CEREMONY

NEWS & UPDATES
US Penitentiary - Hazelton



Kyria and COLT

The POWER of paws4prisons™: Year One

By Kyria Henry
Founder & Deputy Executive Director, paws4people™
Program Manager, paws4prisons™ / SlammerDogZ™

As I sit in my college apartment in Morgantown, West Virginia reflecting on the last eighteen months I've spent here, the magnitude of my experiences seem too much to grasp. I came to West Virginia University seeking nothing more than a lot of fun and (hopefully) a degree; but what I have been blessed with has been so much more than any typical college experience. The first time that I walked in the Secure Female Facility at the United States Penitentiary in Hazelton, West Virginia I had no idea how much it was about to change my life.

The paws4prisons™ / SlammerDogZ™ program began in May, 2007 with the seemingly simple mission of educating carefully selected inmates on the theory and practice of training Assistance Dogs. Our sole mission was to place as many highly trained Assistance Dogs with as many clients as possible. To us, the institution and its inmates

were merely an additional venue to increase our productivity at accomplishing our mission. Today, it sounds almost comical to simplify the program to that degree.

Within a few short weeks of hard work and honest emotions, the inmates showed us that they were transforming right along with the dogs. The inmates were learning as much from the dogs as they were teaching; if not more. The dogs showed us all that their unconditional love truly can break down the toughest of barriers; and barbed wire and bars proved no exception. Today it is undeniable to any who witness the program that the inmates themselves are receiving as much motivation, rehabilitation, and therapy as the clients for whom they are training the dogs.

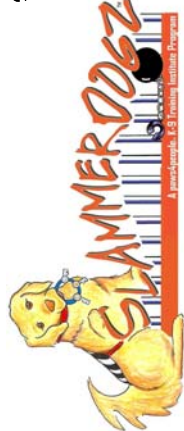
The clients, however, remain the true inspiration

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A paws4people, K-9 Training Institute Program

Dedicated to the MEMORY of
CORA
March 23 to June 7, 2008



A paws4people, K-9 Training Institute Program



Heidi and COLT

My DREAMS Are Coming True

By Heidi Livengood
Director, K-9 Training Operations, paws4people™
Chief Trainer, paws4prisons™ / SlammerDogZ™

Beginning in eighth grade I started dreaming about the many ways that I could help people by using dogs. I dreamed of attending the Assistance Dog Institute (ADI) to obtain an education that would deepen my knowledge of how to train dogs so that a person with a disability could utilize the dog in their everyday living, and therefore, become more independent. I also hoped that a dog could be the "ice breaker" to new relationships for these individuals. I dreamed of being part of program that could make this happen; to make them feel special, and for once in their lives to not feel like an outcast. So, after winning first place at the state level with my service dog project in the Social Studies Fair in high school, I dedicated myself to make it my life goal to help people, and to find some way to make this happen. Little did I know that I would be so

richly blessed with so many opportunities to do this in my life.

In high school I was given the opportunity to take my first huge step toward my life goal. There was a program in Morgantown called *Golden Rule Assistance Dogs*. Rick Yount was the Director of the program and came to be my biggest mentor at that time. He took me under his wing and started teaching me techniques for training the dogs that would eventually graduate to be service dogs. Rick saw the passion and the potential in me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams and to never give up. It was Rick that told me all about ADI and who urged me to attend their program. After completing high school and an additional year of college, I was on my way across the country to California, where I would attend ADI.

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NEWS & UPDATES

The GRADUATES

COLT

training was conducted under the tutelage of Ms. Lindsay Parenti, Chief Trainer, Hearts of Gold, who is the instructor for the WVU course: "Principles, Theory, and Application of Service Dog Training."

After the two-week USPH / **paws4prisons™** Boot Camp, which was conducted May 7-18, 2007, COLT was assigned to Ms. Heidi Livengood, Chief Trainer, **paws4prisons™**. As the Chief Trainer, Heidi is responsible for all aspects of training for all dogs at USPH. COLT lives with, and works, 24/7 with Heidi. In this role, COLT completed his 15-month, Intermediate and Advanced Service Dog training programs.

In late September 2007, Grace Meek, an eight-year-old, quadriplegic, Service Dog Private Placement Candidate, visited USP Hazelton as part of her Private Placement process. This visit was designed to introduce the USPH inmates to one of the young ladies to whom one of the dogs they were training would eventually be placed. The visit was also intended to introduce the private placement candidates' family to the inmates who were training their daughter's future Service Dog. Prior to this visit COLT had met Grace, and had immediately bonded with her. From this point on, everyone agreed that COLT was destined to be Grace's Service Dog, provided he successfully complete the remainder of his Service Dog training program.



COLT's Responsibility

During September through December 2007, COLT continued his Intermediate Service Dog training at USPH and also accomplished additional socialization training with the assistance of WVU students as part of their "Capstone" projects within the WVU Center for Civic Engagement. COLT also visited with Grace on several occasions.

In January 2008, COLT began his final seven-month Advanced Service Dog training program. Here he completed his mastery of the standard 92 Service Dog Command Set, and began the Customized Command Set specifically designed to support Grace's unique needs and requirements. By the end of February 2008, COLT also began his training to become a certified Educational Assistance Dog. This training was conducted inside the special education and regular education classrooms of the Preston and Monongalia County Public School Systems. Within this training program, COLT learned how to perform all the tasks necessary to participate in Educational Animal-Assisted Instruction. This training will also aid COLT in performing his primary mission as a Service Dog for Grace during Grace's school career.



COLT and his favorite trainer, Heidi Livengood, Chief Trainer, **paws4prisons™**

NIKKI

training was conducted under the tutelage of Ms. Lindsay Parenti, Chief Trainer, Hearts of Gold, who is the instructor for the WVU course: "Principles, Theory, and Application of Service Dog Training."

After the two-week USPH / **paws4prisons™**'s "Boot Camp," which was conducted May 7-18, 2007, NIKKI was assigned to USPH Inmate Tonya M. as her Primary Trainer. Here she began her 15-month, Intermediate and Advanced Service Dog training programs. During September through December 2007, NIKKI continued her Intermediate Service Dog training at USPH and accomplished additional socialization training with the assistance of WVU students as part of their "Capstone" projects within the WVU Center for Civic Engagement.

In January 2008, NIKKI began her final seven-month Advanced Service Dog training program. Here she completed her mastery of the standard 92 Service Dog Command Set. By the end of March 2008, NIKKI began her training to become a certified Educational Assistance Dog and Rehabilitative Assistance Dog. This training was conducted inside the special education and regular education classrooms of the Preston County, West Virginia and the Loudoun County, Virginia Public School Systems. Within this training program, NIKKI learned how to perform all the tasks necessary to participate in Educational Animal-Assisted Instruction and Animal-Assisted Physical and Occupational Therapy.



NIKKI and her new Handler

In early June 2008, NIKKI has placed with her Certified Educational/Rehabilitative Assistance Dog Handler, Mrs. Sharon Antoszyk. Sharon is a registered Physical Therapist and works for the Cabarrus County, North Carolina Public School System. NIKKI will be working this summer with Sharon in various summer school venues preparing her for this Fall.

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ELLIE

ELLIE, a Golden Retriever, is one of the original five dogs that started the **paws4prisons™** program at USP Hazelton in May 2007.

ELLIE received her “puppy” training and “basic” Service Dog training in the Hearts of Gold program conducted at West Virginia University from January to April 2007. This training was conducted under the tutelage of Ms. Lindsay Parenti, Chief Trainer, Hearts of Gold, who is the instructor for the WVU course: “Principles, Theory, and Application of Service Dog Training.”

After the two-week USPH / **paws4prisons™** “Boot Camp,” which was conducted May 7 -18, 2007, ELLIE was assigned to USPH Inmate Angelic A. as her Primary Trainer. Here she began her 15-month, Intermediate and Advanced Service Dog training programs.

In late August 2007, Amanda Ivancevich, a four-year-old Service Dog Private Placement Candidate, visited USP Hazelton as part of her Private Placement process. This visit was designed to introduce the USPH inmates to one of the young ladies to whom one of the dogs they were training would eventually be placed. The visit was also intended to introduce the family of the private placement candidates to the inmates who were training their daughter's future Service Dog. During this visit, all in attendance witnessed one of the most amazing events of canine-human bonding when ELLIE met Amanda for the first time and proceeded to bond with her in a way rarely witnessed. From this point on, all who witnessed this bonding agreed that ELLIE was destined to be Amanda's Service Dog, provided she successfully complete the remainder of her Service Dog training program.

During September through December 2007, ELLIE continued her Intermediate Service Dog training at USPH and accomplished additional socialization training with the assistance of WVU students as part of their “Capstone” projects within the WVU Center for Civic Engagement. ELLIE also traveled on two occasions to North Carolina to conduct socialization training with Amanda and her family.

In January 2008, ELLIE began her final seven-month Advanced Service Dog training program. Here she completed her mastery of the standard 92 Service Dog Command Set and began the Customized Command Set specifically designed to support Amanda's unique needs and requirements. By the end of February 2008, ELLIE began her training to become a certified Educational Assistance Dog. This training was conducted inside the special education and regular education classrooms of the Preston and Monongalia County Public School Systems. Within this training program, ELLIE learned how to perform all the tasks necessary to participate in Educational Animal-Assisted Instruction. This training will also aid ELLIE in performing her primary mission as a Service Dog for Amanda during Amanda's school career.



ELLIE's Responsibility

LIBERTY

LIBERTY, a 3-year-old Golden Retriever, was rescued from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter, Waterford, VA, in December 2007. She was brought to USPH/SFF to enter the Shelter Rescue Training Program.

LIBERTY qualified so high on her intake personality, disposition and trainability evaluation that she was recommended by the training staff for training within the Educational or Rehabilitative Assistance Dog Training Program. This makes LIBERTY the first shelter/rescue dog to be trained in **paws4prisons™** as an Educational / Rehabilitative Assistance Dog. By the end of March 2008, LIBERTY began her training to become a certified Educational or Rehabilitative Assistance Dog in the Loudoun County, Virginia, Public School System. This training was conducted inside special education and regular education classrooms. Within this training program, LIBERTY learned how to perform all the tasks necessary to participate in Educational Animal-Assisted Instruction and Animal-Assisted Physical and Occupational Therapy. After her four-week training it was decided that LIBERTY should be placed as a Rehabilitative Assistance Dog with a disabled adolescent child. Nicholas, a special needs child, who lives in the Charlotte, North Carolina area was selected. LIBERTY now resides with Nicholas' family where she has quickly become a member of the family and Nicholas' new-best friend.

[Note: When LIBERTY arrived from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter she was named: GINGER. The Inmate and USPH Staff renamed her: LIBERTY.]



LIBERTY meets Nicholas



2 Loudoun Street, SW #A
Leesburg, VA 20175
703.777.4002

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Fax: (304) 599-1908
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PROUD CORPORATE SPONSOR

The POWER of paws4prisons™: Year One

Continued from page 1

for all of us. Handing over COLT to Grace and ELLIE to Amanda will be the icing on the cake of our first year of placements. July 2008 seemed like the distant future not too long ago, and now we all realize it will be here and gone in the blink of an eye. It has taken a remarkable amount of work and resources to make it this far; but none of it would have been possible without the help of an amazing team:

USP Hazelton Warden Joe D. Driver who has allowed this program to grow and prosper.

The amazing Mrs. Susan Folk, Unit Administrator, who initiated the whole program and has supported it whole-heartedly ever since.

Mrs. Lisa Johnson, Correctional Counselor, who has taken on the day-to-day operations of the program dogs and inmates within the "K" unit.

The educational department and all of the staff of the SFF, who support and enable the program each day.

My dear friend Heidi Livengood, the **paws4prisons™ / SlammerDogZ™** Chief Trainer, without whom the inmates and dogs alike wouldn't have learned much of anything this past year! Over the past year she has not only become a trusted co-worker, but a friend, a sister, and a partner in my life goals far exceeding my prayers.

My best friend Katelyn Casten, who never fails to come to my rescue; from making an emergency dog food trip or opening our apartment to five dogs at a time, and always with a smile.



Grace and Kyria at a Public Awareness Event in Morgantown

My father, Terry Henry, Executive Director of paws4people foundation, who loyally serves as Heidi and my sounding board, problem solver, and ultimate supporter. As well as the rest of my family, my mother and grandparents, who make my "job" possible from faithfully dog-sitting to relentlessly encouraging me.

And ultimately to our program inmates who have truly poured their very souls into each of these dogs day-in and day-out, and who wouldn't settle for anything less.

What began with eight inmates and four dogs has grown into 38 inmates, and a current training capacity of sixteen dogs. Over the past year, we have trained a total of 28 dogs, placed 6 dogs (prior to graduation), and saved three dogs from being euthanized. Along with COLT and ELLIE, NIKKI will be graduating as an Educational Assistance and Rehabilitative Assistance Dog for Sharon Antozyk, an Physical Therapist in Concord, NC. LIBERTY will be graduating as a Private Placement Dog for Nicholas, a young child born with Bilateral Cleft Lip and Palate and a mild chromosomal abnormality, who lives with his family in the Charlotte, NC area. And PRESTON and BENTLEY have become Community Dogs; both taken in by wonderful staff members of USPH. It has truly been a **REMARK-ABLE** beginning.

As I look back, the most profound realization I come to is that I have truly gained a new family over the last year and a half. From the inmates, to the staff of USP Hazelton, to our clients and their families; the dogs have served as our life-long bond. It is as if someone has been putting together a beautiful puzzle, and each of us are only one little piece. Without one of these pieces, the whole picture could never be complete. The very last piece will fall into place on this morning, July 26, as we all come together to finish what we started so long ago; and as Grace, Amanda, and their families leave smiling, holding a brand new leash, we will have completed our very first puzzle.

And on the morning of July 27, 2008, we will begin putting together the next one.

My DREAMS Are Coming True

Continued from page 1

Going to ADI was a wonderful experience which I will never forget. I was not only educated on how to train a dog to do more than 90 commands, but I also learned how to make these dogs become a blessing to everyone they met. I also gained a better understanding of the disabilities of some of my clients and how best to accommodate them and to work with them. I learned so much about how to care for the dogs and I was training them to help them to have a long, healthy working life for their clients. I am forever grateful to Dr. Bonnie Bergin for the wealth of knowledge she imparted to me while at ADI. She truly

gave me a priceless treasure.

During my schooling at ADI, I had no idea where God would lead me upon my graduation. But I knew that through him all of the right doors would open. I was later contacted by a program that was starting in my very own hometown – what an awesome God I have! So, upon returning to West Virginia I immediately began going to the women's prison in Hazelton to become integrated into the **paws4prisons™** program. What a blessing that would come to be over the next year!

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My DREAMS Are Coming True

Continued from page 4

I do not even know where to begin to say how much the **paws4prisons™** program means to me. I have met some truly wonderful people this past year while being a part of the program, and have been able to touch so many lives. I always thought that I would only be helping individuals with disabilities and never would have imagined that I would also be helping many female inmates as well. I have witnessed some amazing changes in many of these women. They now have a reason to wake up in the morning, a purpose in life, and a reason to be proud of themselves. One inmate told me that she now has something positive and exciting to talk about with her children, while another said that for the first time in her life her child has told her that she is proud of her. I have seen these women become more responsible, more compassionate, more self-disciplined, and gain a higher opinion of their self-worth. These things alone have made each one of these women a better person, and hopefully these traits will continue to flourish and to help them make better decisions in the future. I know that the training of these dogs for Amanda, Grace and Erin has left an impression on the hearts of all of these women. I trust that this will be enough to keep them moving in the right direction once their prison terms are over. I hope that somehow, God puts a spark in them to be a positive influence to their children, family and friends. They all have so much potential and they have transformed into some truly wonderful trainers! One inmate went from not even liking dogs to becoming our lead trainer. I have seen some of the trainers transform some of our most difficult dogs into dogs that are amazingly well behaved. The women here know that what they are doing by training these dogs every day will one day make a world of difference to the individual who will receive the dog. Dogs like GENEVA, who put a spark into the life of her new owner. LACIE, a dog that had been thrown alongside the road, unwanted, now has a second chance and is making a difference in her new owners' life by being a clown and an unfailing friend. And let's not forget LIBERTY; once abused and unwanted – She has been



Heidi and COLT engaged in one of her favorite activities—telling people about her dog.

given the chance to be non-judgmental, forever friend to Nicholas. I give the credit to these inmates because it is they who have put their hearts, souls and hard work into making these dogs **great!**

The journey over this past year has been amazing. The people I have met will be forever in my heart and in my life. Our first client,



Heidi with her "STAR" pupil: COLT

Amanda, is a true joy in my life! Her wonderful personality is so infectious; I cannot help but laugh and be joyful whenever I am with her. Ever time I see Amanda she has progressed by leaps and bounds in her therapy and I pray that excels far beyond any limits the doctors have set for her. Amanda's parents and sister are some of the kindest people I have ever met and I could ask for nothing more than for the honor of graduating ELLIE with Amanda as her first service dog from the **paws4prisons™** program. Our second client, Grace, is also amazing for her own reasons.

She knows what it was like to be able to walk and run with her friends before suffering a stroke. However, even though she can no longer do those things she always has a beautiful smile on her face and does not let her disability stand in her way. She participates in beauty pageants, plays Wii, and completes beautiful art work. I hope that with COLT'S help she will be able to achieve new and even more wonderful things. Grace's family includes some very, very special people who will do anything for anyone. I so value the friendships I have made with all of them.

Since August 2007 I have had the privilege of training and fostering COLT. He is an amazing dog whom I have become very attached. He has matured and learned many things, his favorite being what he learned especially for Grace – removing the lids off of magic markers! He loves to cuddle, take walks, chew on bones, and to play a good game of ball. He is very loving and caring and takes every chance he gets to be a clown and make you laugh. I am going to miss COLT very, very much, but I am proud to know that I am handing him over today to Grace to be her new service dog. I know that the two of them will become a great team and the best of buddies.

Knowing that two of the first service dogs from the **paws4prisons™** program are graduating today makes my heart nearly explode with joy. I cannot believe that I have begun my journey of fulfilling my life goal and yet, I know that this is just the tip of the iceberg. It seems like only yesterday that I was thinking that graduation was a year away and that COLT and ELLIE were still able to be carried in our arms. And now the big day has arrived. I am going to miss these two very special furry friends but I know that they will give and receive so much love, and the

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My DREAMS Are Coming True

Continued from page 5



Heidi working with Grace and COLT

great work they will do will be an inspiration to all who have contact with them.

I am so lucky to have two wonderful people to work with; Terry has become my "second Dad" and we are able to learn new things from each other nearly every day. I am so glad I have

someone that truly believes in me and who encourages me when there is a chance for me to learn and grow. I like having someone in my life that shares the same passion and who I can look up to – thank you Terry for all you have done for me! Kyria is another amazing person whom I feel blessed to work with and to be friends with. I feel like I have been friends with her for many years, yet it has only been one year. I know I can depend on her in any situation. Having someone my own age that has similar dreams and goals makes me feel that together we can accomplish great and wonderful things. I want Terry and Kyria to know how much I love them both and how delighted I am to have them in my life.

My family, especially my parents, have been extremely supportive ever since I first told them my dream when I was in eighth grade. They have helped me every step of the way, including taking me to all kinds of events when I vol-

unteered with the *Golden Rule Assistance Dogs*, and helping me drive to and from California so that I could attend ADI. They have been wonderful and I thank them for all they have done for me!

The prison program would not be what it is without the wonderful people who help us. First, I want to acknowledge Warden Driver for being so helpful and supportive and for helping us to make the program such a success. Without his big heart and his desire to make difference for the female inmates we would not be able to be where we are today. Mrs. Folk is a sweet lady whom we are so blessed to have working with us. She is one of our biggest supporters. So many things would have been impossible to accomplish if we did not have her support, guidance and assistance. Thank you so much, Mrs. Folk, for all you do for us. Mrs. Johnson is a wonderful soul who watches over our dogs and the women in the program. He has worked very hard to help us improve our training program in many ways. I wish to thank her for all of the extra time and effort she puts into the program. She is a huge asset to us. Mr. Gemberling is also a person whom we feel blessed to have involved with the **paws4prisons™** program. He has taken some wonderful photographs of the dogs and the inmates and has helped us to improve on the building of our website. Thank you for all of the great things you have done for us Mr. Gemberling!

This past year has gone by so fast, and it is hard to believe we are about to experience the first graduation. Our program has so many opportunities to both give and receive blessings. I know that in the years to come God will double these opportunities. He will forever be the leader of our program because it is only through Him that we are able to do the work that we do both now, and in the years to come.

The **paws4prisons™** / **SlammerDogZ™** HONOR ROLL

We are PROUD to have these LADIES as members of our TEAM!

K-9 Trainers

Amy A.	Amanda A.	Holly B.	Carey B.	Crystal B.
Kayse D.	Kadisa F.	Dantimia G.	Misty G.	Melissa H.
Cynthia H.	Elaundrea M.	Colleen M.	Sue M.	Gemma M.
Chay M.	Amy M.	Susan M.	Tonya M.	Zyra O.
Michele R.	Carolina R.	Denise S.	Sharon S.	
	Lakenndria W.	Jordan W.		



K-9 Physical Fitness Trainers

Melissa A.	Becky B.	Delores F.	Casie H.	Michelle K.
Lee L.	Margaretta L.	Crystal P.	Genie R.	Mary S.
		Jennifer T.		



HONORARY MEMBERS

Member of TEAM when transferred or released

Pamela B.	Robin R.	Linda S.
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COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

CLARKE

This training was conducted under the tutelage of Ms. Lindsay Parenti, Chief Trainer, Hearts of Gold, who is the instructor for the WVU course: "Principles, Theory, and Application of Service Dog Training."

CLARKE entered the USPH / **paws4prisons**™ Service Dog training program in August 2007. CLARKE was assigned to USPH Inmate Gemma M. as his Primary Trainer.

During September through December 2007, CLARKE continued his Intermediate Service Dog training at USPH and also accomplished additional socialization training with the assistance of WVU students as part of their "Capstone" projects within the WVU Center for Civic Engagement.



CLARKE
Hearts of Gold Service Dog

In January 2008, CLARKE began his final seven-month Advanced Service Dog training program. Here he completed his mastery of the standard 92 Service Dog Command Set. In March 2008, CLARKE began his training to become a certified Educational Assistance Dog. This training will be conducted inside the special education and regular education classrooms of the Preston and Monongalia County Public School Systems. Within this training program, CLARKE learned how to perform all the tasks necessary to participate in Educational Animal-Assisted Instruction.

In May 2008, CLARKE was transferred back to the Hearts of Gold program at WVU. The Hearts of Gold program had a private placement client that the staffs of both programs thought CLARKE may be a perfect fit for. CLARKE has now been placed with this individual. The staff of **paws4prisons**™ / **SlammerDogZ**™ is proud of the role they played in the training of CLARKE and are extremely proud that he has found his "Service Dog" home.



Our
NEWEST
Training CREW
Began Training the First
Weeks of June 2008



CAMDEN



CAYLIE



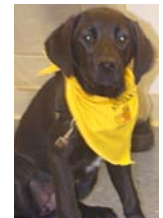
IVY



JAKE



SOLOMON



LIA

Warden Joe D. Driver

Mrs. Susan Folk

Unit Administrator

Mrs. Lisa Johnson

Correctional Counselor

**Mr. Gary Gemberling & the Entire Staff
of the Educational Department**

**The Entire Staff of the
Recreation Department**

**And the rest of the Staff and Officers
of US Penitentiary - Hazelton**

paws4people, Inc.

P.O. Box 491
Round Hill, VA 20141-0491

www.paws4people.org
www.paws4prisons.org
www.SlammerDogZ.org

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Contact the Editor:
paws4prisons™ News & Updates
SlammerDogZ™ News & Update
P.O. Box 491, Round Hill, VA
20142-0491

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