



FVE Activity Report

2012 | 14



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

FVE contributes to a healthier Europe

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) represents the European veterinary profession. Our mission is the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and public health. Our way to achieving these important goals is supporting veterinarians in delivering their responsibilities at the best possible level, recognised and valued by society.

One of our core responsibilities lies in the field of One Health that addresses benefits and risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. People, animals and the environment we live in are all part of one integrated system. Animal health, animal welfare and public health go hand in hand. The veterinary profession, being a health profession, has a direct and substantial impact on human health.

An important step for the profession in realising its goals is assuring that we have done our homework properly. In recent years we have spent much energy on topics as the quality of veterinary education, the functioning of

statutory bodies, our role in responsible use of medicines, our contribution to animal welfare, and many more.

However, we are well aware that we can't do everything by ourselves. For that reason we work closely together with other stakeholder organisations and people in other professions and disciplines. We maintain good contact with the EU institutions and international organisations.

Important actions we take are:

- Communication
- Raising awareness
- Commenting legislation
- Strengthening education
- Forming alliances
- Promotion of Research

The report before you presents a selection of our activities and reflects on the recent achievements. It highlights the role of veterinarians in preserving and protecting human and animal health and animal welfare.



Dr Christophe Buhot
President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

Communication

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

FVE was founded in 1975. Today, we represent 48 national veterinary organizations across 38 European countries and 4 Sections, each of which represents key groups within our profession: Practitioners (UEVP), Hygienists (UEVH), State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) and Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI).

Together with our members, FVE aims to support veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities at the best possible level, recognised and valued by society. Further to their high education and training, and through the application of their specific knowledge of animals and related technical skills, veterinarians contribute - in a unique way - to the prevention and control of health and welfare issues in animals, including wildlife and related human health problems. Veterinarians therefore are experts in the field of animal health, animal welfare and public health.

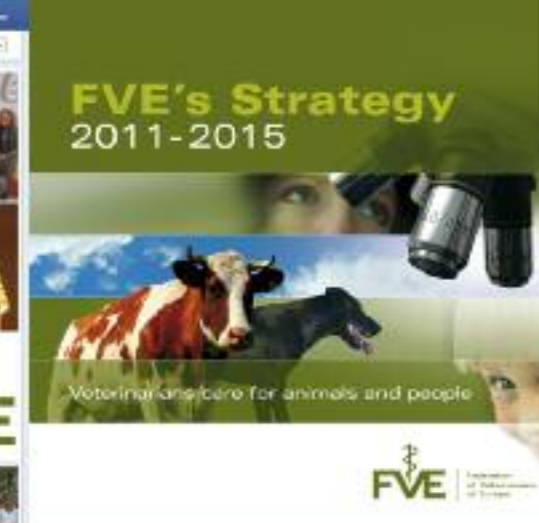
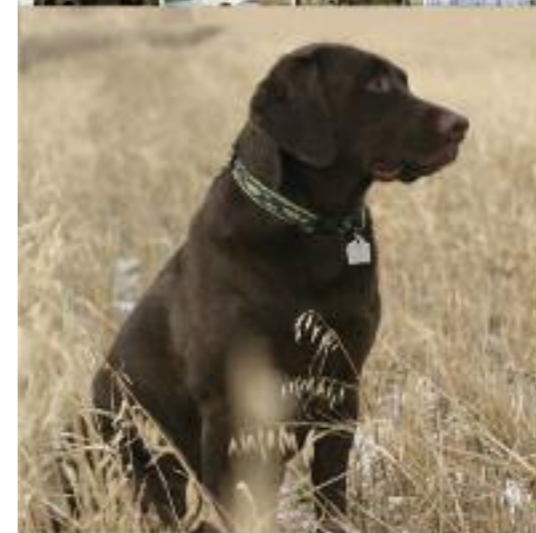
"Veterinarians care for animals and people!"

Sections

- Union of European Veterinary Practitioners
- Union of European Veterinary Hygienists
- European Association of State Veterinary Officers
- European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry

FVE Working groups

- Veterinary Statutory Bodies WG
- Medicines WG
- Food safety & quality WG
- Aquaculture WG
- Bee health WG
- Animal Welfare WG



One Health

Veterinary medicine has a much wider impact on society than is often appreciated. Clearly, animal health and welfare depend on adequate veterinary care. But the health of people depends on it too; animals and animal products can be a source of human disease.

Three quarters of emerging human diseases are passed from animals, and 60% of infectious animal diseases can cause human disease. Antimicrobial resistance affects both human and veterinary health, and should be addressed jointly by all medical professions – including the veterinary profession

This is why the FVE strongly supports the One Health concept, a worldwide strategy for expanding inter-disciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment.

Veterinarians are integral to missions at the human-animal-environment interface, as is illustrated by the initiatives and achievements listed on the following pages.



Raising awareness



Raising awareness on antibiotic resistance

In November 2011, FVE organised a conference on antimicrobial resistance, on the occasion of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day. The event attracted over 300 participants from more than 40 countries.

In 2012 and 2013, FVE published a total of six leaflets on the responsible use of antimicrobials – for veterinary

practitioners, policy makers, pet owners, farmers, horse owners and the general public – to help raise awareness.

The leaflets have been translated into all official EU languages by the European Commission.

In January 2014, as part of these initiatives, FVE joined forces with the European doctors' (CPME) and dentists' associations (CED), and published a leaflet with advice on the responsible use of antibiotics in both people and animals.



Caring for the health and welfare of fish

European aquaculture is a fast growing sector, with a significant potential in terms of production and exploitation of new species. Fish, like other production animals, require care for their health and welfare, while the food they produce needs to be safe.

In 2013, FVE set up a working group on aquaculture to make recommendations to improve the health and welfare of aquatic animals.

In May 2013, FVE organised a conference on farmed fish health and welfare, with support from the Irish Presidency and the European Commission.

Tackling Europe's bee decline

Honeybees produce honey and pollinate crops used for food production. They are essential for European agriculture. Europe's bee decline over the past decade is therefore particularly worrying. The causes include diseases and pesticides but also poor agricultural and beekeeping practices.

The FVE working group on honeybees, set up in 2012, has highlighted the lack of some medicines for honeybees and recommends avoiding inappropriate use of antibiotics and of non-medical substances in hives. Furthermore, it recommends that medicines for honey bees should be on prescription only. FVE promotes veterinary practitioner's involvement in the beekeeping sector.

Not all species are suitable as pets

Mid-2013, FVE carried out a survey on exotic animals in veterinary practice, in collaboration with the Born Free foundation. Results indicated an increase in the number of wild animals and other exotic species that are kept as pets. This raises concerns about animal health and welfare as well as public health and the environment. Some species are completely unsuitable for being kept by the general public.

The FVE therefore calls upon Member states to draft so-called 'suitability lists', specifying which species can (or cannot) be kept by private individuals. Such lists should be based on scientific assessment of the risks to the animal itself, its owners and society, as well as the potential impact on the ecosystems in case of release or escape of the animal.



Guidance on the use of the cascade

Late 2013, the FVE published an updated guidance leaflet for veterinarians in case no authorised veterinary medical product is available, presenting the decision diagram or "cascade" for food producing animals, companion animals and for horses. FVE In collaboration with FEEVA (Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations), FVE also gave input to the list of essential medicines for horses.

Legislation & enforcement

Prevention is better than cure

Over the past years, FVE has participated in several stakeholder meetings and has issued numerous recommendations, comments and briefing notes regarding the upcoming Animal Health Law, which aims to consolidate 50 directives and regulations and 400 pieces of secondary legislation.

FVE supports in particular the "prevention is better than cure" principle and the integrated approach to animal health and welfare and public health.

It also welcomes the proposal from the European Parliament to increase the effectiveness of regular animal health visits by putting more emphasis on disease prevention and animal welfare.

Regular farm visits are the cornerstone of the "prevention is better than cure" strategy; they are indispensable for the prevention and early detection of possible animal health or welfare issues.



Food safety and quality

The veterinarians in Europe play a crucial role in the provision and assurance of safe food from animal origin to the consumers. Over the years FVE has submitted inputs and recommendations to the EU Institutions regarding several pieces of food legislation. FVE promotes the health and welfare of all animals whereas meat inspection is a key component of the overall surveillance system for disease prevention. FVE through its working group on food safety and quality, supports the modernization of meat inspection.

Complete and reliable information flow from and back to the farm is an essential tool for a risk-based food controls.

FVE calls for a single market

The revision of the veterinary medicines directive is expected in 2014. FVE has reiterated the need of a true single market for medicinal products, to ensure the availability and accessibility of these products throughout the EU and to reduce the need for off-label use of medicines.

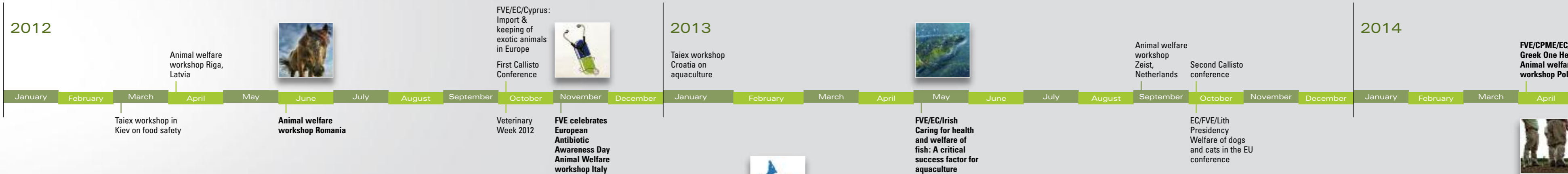
Currently, veterinary medicines on the market in one member state can often not be used in other member states. FVE believes that there should be one single market throughout the EU for all veterinary products.

FVE also calls for a ban on the internet sales of antibiotics, which is of particular concern in view of the risk of antimicrobial resistance. Currently, there is no European legislation effectively controlling the sales of veterinary medicines over the internet.

Furthermore, FVE calls for EU legislators to make anthelmintics for farm animals available on veterinary prescription only, to ensure their use is conditional to professional advice. Resistance to anthelmintics (treatments against parasitic worms) is a growing problem, especially in farm animals.



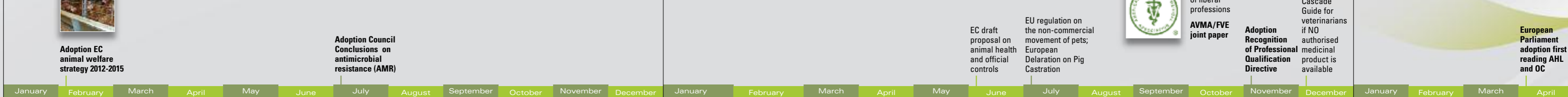
Conferences Meetings



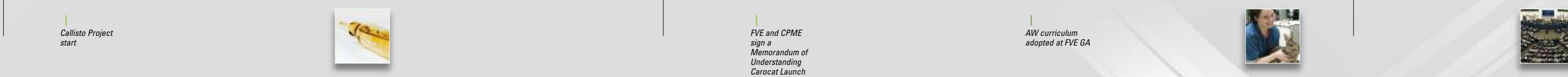
Brochures Position Papers



Legislation



Other



European mobility of veterinarians

FVE is in favour of veterinarians moving and working cross borders in Europe.

The Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (adopted in January 2014) aims to facilitate this mobility.

So that it is clear to everyone what all qualified veterinarians should know, the FVE and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) have helped draft a list of minimum competencies required of veterinarians on the moment they graduate.

These are the fundamental competencies for every veterinarian, irrespective of specific career choices.



The quality of veterinary education is increasing

In Europe, veterinary schools are regularly visited and assessed jointly by the European association of establishments for veterinary education and the FVE, to ensure the quality of veterinary education.

The number of schools approved by this evaluation system is steadily increasing, reflecting a significant increase in quality.

Currently, 78.3% of the 69 EU schools visited have been (conditionally) approved.

Defining a veterinarian

In November 2012, FVE adopted the following definition of a veterinarian: “a professional with a comprehensive scientific education, licensed by the legal authority, to carry out, in an independent, ethical and personally responsible capacity, all aspects of veterinary medicine, in the interest of the health and welfare of the animals, the client and society.”

This definition, formulated to mark the role and responsibilities of the veterinarian, was taken over by the European Parliament in the draft Animal Health Law report.

Assessing farm animal welfare

Since 2011 FVE, in collaboration with the European Commission organises workshops on practical farm animal welfare. These train the trainers workshops took place in Hungary, Spain, Latvia, Romania, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. So far they have trained over 900 veterinarians. They have provided veterinarians with a deeper understanding of animal welfare, including species-specific welfare legislation and assessment schemes as well as the critical welfare issues.



Raising the quality of veterinary care

By creating VetCEE (Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe), veterinarians have paved the way for harmonised European standards of post-graduate professional education programmes.

Minimum standards already exist at veterinary graduate and specialist level, but there is a lack of European standards for the intermediate (middle-tier) level for veterinary practitioners.

Teaching animal welfare

The FVE/EAEVE working group on European veterinary education in animal welfare, set up in 2012 came to the conclusion that animal welfare and its associated research are as important as other key subjects such as animal health and public health. Together with the AWARE project (EU FP 7), the working group made an inventory of animal welfare currently taught to EU veterinary undergraduates. In June 2013, it presented a model syllabus on animal welfare education. FVE and EAEVE now actively encourage all European schools to implement this syllabus and to evaluate them through the evaluation system of veterinary schools.

The model curriculum was also presented at the World Veterinary Congress in Prague in October 2013, and at other major events in China (2013), Brazil (2013) and India (2014).

Joint working Committees

- European Committee on Veterinary Education (ECOVE)
- European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT)
- Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VetCEE)

VetCEE will validate the quality of these middle-tier programmes. It will agree on minimum standards, and accredit programmes that meet these standards. VetCEE was established in March 2014 thanks to the joint efforts of the FVE (including the UEVP and the FECAVA), the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE).

Collaboration

European doctors and vets sign MoU

In January 2013, the European doctors' association (CPME) and FVE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) concerning the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the preservation of antimicrobial efficacy.

The MoU recognises that antimicrobial resistance is a true One-health issue, compromising both human and animal health.



not legally binding, the guidelines aim to contribute to animal welfare in a practical, proactive and positive way.

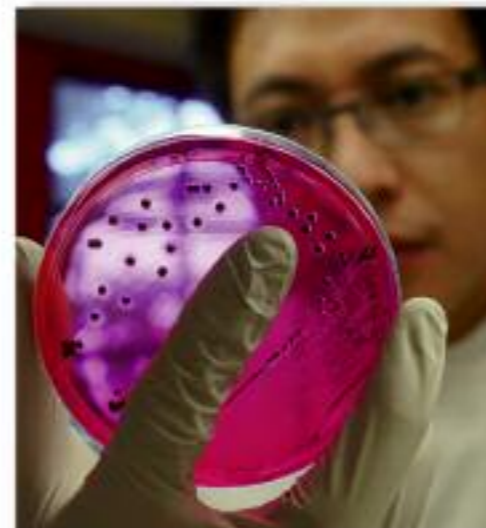
AMR: vets and doctors join forces

FVE aims to strengthen the position of the veterinarian in respect to responsible use and keeping veterinary oversight. Fighting antimicrobial resistances and improving availability of veterinary medicines are key priorities for FVE as it works in partnership with many partners in the field of medicines.

FVE is founding member of the European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals (EPRUMA). Established in 2005, EPRUMA is a multi-stakeholder platform linking best practice with animal health and public health. FVE will become EPRUMA chair in 2016.

Together with the European doctors (CPME) and dentists (CED), FVE has also produced a leaflet with advice on the responsible use of antibiotics in both people and animals.

FVE also provides advice and collaborates closely with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and especially the Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP).



Combatting illegal puppy trade

This first conference, held in October 2013, was organised by the European Commission, the Lithuanian Presidency, with the support of FVE.

Conclusions highlighted the need to combat poor breeding practices and to stop the illegal trade which causes suffering to the animals involved and which increases the risk of spread of serious zoonotic diseases.

Since 2010, FVE is also an active partner of CaroDog for responsible dog ownership. CaroDog and CaroCat calls for an effective, centralised and reliable system of dog registration, as identification without registration is of little value.

Since 2010 FVE is also partner of CAROcat.

“Effective and reliable systems of dog identification and registration are crucial for successful animal health and welfare management, not only to reunite stray dogs with their owners, but also to help prevent illegal puppy trading and to promote responsible ownership.”



One Health Conference

In April 2014, FVE organised a One Health conference on 'Ensuring health & sustainability in Europe: doctors and veterinarians emphasise "prevention is better than cure"'. Aim of the event, organised together with the European commission, the Greek presidency and the European doctors' association (CPME), was to bring together stakeholders from the medical and veterinary sectors, to discuss on how to collaborate in a One-Health approach, with a focus on prevention.

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Assessing the fitness to travel

In January 2012, FVE published guidelines to assess the fitness for the transport of cattle, together with other stakeholders.

Early 2013, similar guidelines were drafted for pigs, which will be released mid-2014. Mid 2013, a third initiative started for horses, together with the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations and World Horse Welfare.

The guidelines will cover the basic requirements of fitness for transport as required by Regulation 1/2005. Although



PUPPY TRADE IN EUROPE
 ■ Production country
 ■ Distribution country
 → Transport route
 (Source: VierPforten)

Research



Callisto: health risks from pets

FVE is project leader of CALLISTO, an EU-funded project set up in 2011. Callisto aims to investigate what role companion animals play in the transmission of diseases to farm animals and to people and look at ways to reduce the risk.

Preliminary findings show that pets have many positive effects on the health and wellbeing of people, but that they pose also a number of risks, including certain parasites, viruses and bacteria as well as bite wounds. Management of these risks needs a broad, multi-faceted approach including responsible dog ownership.

Why do vets prescribe the way they do?

In March 2012, FVE together with the European heads of medicines agencies (HMA) launched a European survey on the antimicrobial prescribing behaviour of veterinary practitioners.

Results, published in the Veterinary Record, showed that sensitivity tests, personal experience, the risk for antibiotic resistance development and ease of administration most strongly influenced their prescribing behaviour. Owner demand, culture, profit margin and advertising were considered the least important factors. The responses also identified a need for more rapid and economical sensitivity tests. In respect to antibiotics prescribed, the older antibiotics are cited as the most frequently prescribed classes to treat animals. A variation in frequency of the use of Critically Important Antimicrobials is noted between countries, which may in part be due to national guidance/policies, preferences, national custom and practice, but may also be a reflection on availability of antibiotics and alternatives.

FVE is involved in many EU research such as projects

AWARE: Animal welfare in an enlarged Europe (member of working parties)

AWIN: Animal Welfare Indicators Project

CALLISTO: Think tank on zoonotic diseases in pets (project coordinator)

CONTROL POSTS PROJECT (member of advisory committee)

DISCONTOLS: developing mechanisms for prioritising research leading to improved vaccines, pharmaceuticals and diagnostic tests (member of management board)

EUWELNET: Animal welfare reference centres (member of advisory committee)

NEAT: Networking to enhance the use of economics in animal health education, policy making and research in Europe (member of the advisory committee; work package leader for communication)

www.fve.org



FVE members

Montenegro
VETERINARY CHAMBER

Our mission

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The veterinary profession, being a health profession, has a direct and substantial impact on human health.

Veterinarians care for animals & people

Veterinarians strive for good animal health and welfare, which have a direct and significant impact on the health and well-being of people. Our ultimate goal therefore is the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and public health. Veterinary medicine is a true Health Profession.

FVE aims to:

- Support policy makers by providing scientific knowledge and expertise on matters of veterinary policy, ethics and animal welfare;
- Promote “Disease prevention is better than cure”. Prevention includes good animal husbandry, proper hygiene, vaccinations and regular veterinary visits;
- Promote responsible and sustainable animal keeping;
- Promote veterinarians to be the leading advocates for the good welfare of animals in a continually evolving society;
- Promote responsible use of medicines, particularly of antimicrobials in order to stop avoidable occurrence of resistance;
- Assure the safety of food originating from healthy animals;
- Promote the establishment of a single European market for veterinary medicines to improve the availability of veterinary medicines, especially for minor species;
- Assure good veterinary care and services by continuously working on the quality of under- and post-graduate veterinary education;
- Promote Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO). Identification of animals plus registration in an accessible database are essential elements of RPO.



Our federation

FVE is the federation of veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing over 220,000 veterinarians.

FVE also has 4 sections, representing key groups within our profession: Practitioners (UEVP), Hygienists (UEVH), State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) and Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI).



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