



**Dedicated To The Rescue, Care And Adoption Of Homeless Animals**

## Riding Out The Storm

Derek Hoffman was just a few days old when a small gray kitten named Storm came into his life. From that day forward, the two were inseparable, with Storm often curling up with Derek for a nap. When Derek was diagnosed with autism, the relationship the boy had with Storm

became even more important. The little gray cat gave Derek the confidence and stability he so needed.



*Storm recovers at Rude Ranch*

One fateful day two years ago, while Derek's mom, Krystal, was getting him out to the car, Storm shot out the front door and was gone.

Krystal and Derek posted signs on every street corner in their neighborhood near Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Storm was microchipped and wearing a collar with an ID tag. They hoped that someone would find their beloved kitty and return him to them, however, that was not to be. Sadly, Storm was never found, though Krystal and Derek never stopped looking.

Last year, Krystal and Derek moved to Las Vegas. Before she left, Krystal asked her neighbors to please keep looking for Storm, hoping against hope that he would be found. Where could Storm be?

Last October a stray cat was found in Pasadena, a suburb of Baltimore (more than 10 miles from where Krystal and Derek lived in Baltimore). The cat was turned in to the Anne Arundel County Animal Control agency. The intake officer scanned the cat for a microchip, and traced the information from the chip to Krystal. Sure enough, the stray cat was Storm!

Although Krystal and Derek were thrilled to know that Storm was safe and wanted desperately to be reunited with him, they were now almost 2,500 miles away. They couldn't exactly hop in the car to pick him up! Robin Small, director of the Anne Arundel Animal Control agency, suggested she contact Rude Ranch Animal Rescue to see if we could help get Storm home. After several coordinating conference calls, Rude Ranch Executive Director Bob Rude picked Storm up, and was purred to and snuggled with all the way back to Rude Ranch.

Now that Storm was safe and sound at Rude Ranch, there were just a few details to work out, mainly how to get Storm back to Vegas and how to make sure he was healthy enough to travel. The 2,500 mile distance between Rude Ranch and Krystal and Derek ruled out most charity-based options, such as Angel Flight and Trucker Buddies, where the maximum distance traveled is 500 miles. The last remaining option was for Storm to fly on a commercial

flight with an escort. Even though several Rude Ranch people were willing to "sacrifice" the time to fly to Las Vegas and back, the cost of the tickets with no lead time were very expensive.

Fortunately, word of Storm's need for a "ride" home spread and before long the parent of a Southwest Airlines employee stepped



*Krystal and Derek meet Storm at the Las Vegas Airport*

*Continued on page 6*

## A Note from our Executive Director

All of us at Rude Ranch hope you enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season with your family and friends, both two- and four-legged.

I'd first like to thank everyone for their continued support during these tough economic times. We sincerely appreciate every donation, volunteer hour, and those who continue to tell others about Rude Ranch. Our greatest means of promoting our cause is through word of mouth by the many wonderful people who support our work.

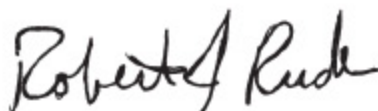
We had a busy fall fundraising season here at Rude Ranch, visiting more than 50 federal and state agencies. Bunny, the miniature pinscher, did a great job as Rude Ranch's ambassador this year. She even got a few special requests for return engagements with several agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We're hoping for another great year from all our Federal and State employees who help us continue our mission to help animals.

We had a great turnout for "Photo's with Santa" again this year. A big thanks to the many volunteers who helped at the event, to all the people who brought their animals to pose with Santa, and to Crunchies for allowing us to use their store to host the event. We had more than 200 animals come through for their pictures this year!

We took on two "special" projects this fall, helping two lost cats get home to their families on the other side of the country. Storm, who had been lost for almost 3 years, was reunited with his family thanks to having been micro-chipped. Racer got tangled up with airline security. If you travel on a commercial airline with your pet, make sure you are prepared with your pet's vet records and boarding pass. Also be aware that you will have to remove your pet from his or her carrier at the airport security gates. If you are worried about your pet becoming frightened and bolting (as happened to Racer), you can ask to be taken to a private enclosed screening area.

Looking ahead, we're excited about Rude Ranch's biggest project to date: a High-Quality, Low-Cost Spay and Neuter clinic! Tentatively named the "Spay Spa and Neuter Nook", our clinic will reduce the numbers of homeless puppies and kittens born in our area. Read more about our plans on page 3!

In closing, I want to extend a special thanks to our adoptive families, contributors, supporters, and volunteers who are vital to our success saving abandoned and neglected animals and placing them in loving homes. Without you, we could not help these animals who so desperately need help.



**Moving?** Planning on moving across the street, state or country soon? Don't forget to let us know so we can update our mailing list. Just send an email to [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org) with your new address and we will take care of the rest.

**Trying to cut down on paper in your mailbox?** Want to receive our Mewsletter online? Just send us an email at [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org) and we will send you a link to our newsletter when its available online!

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org)  
Combined Federal Campaign # 45379  
Maryland Charity Campaign #4650  
National Capital United Way # 9664

Saving Lives,

Four Paws At

A Time

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.

3200 Ivy Way

Harwood, MD 20776

Phone: 410.798.9559

Email: [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org)

[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)

Please contact us if you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list or know others who would like to receive our mailings. Also, let us know if you are moving so we can update our mailing list. Email your new address to [info@ruderanch.org](mailto:info@ruderanch.org).

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is a volunteer based, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the rescue, care and adoption of homeless animals in the Maryland and DC area. Our goals are to find permanent loving homes for adoptable animals placed in our care; to provide a safe haven and rehabilitation to feral and neglected cats rescued from abusive situations; and to put an end to needless euthanasia because of pet overpopulation.

**Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc.  
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Robert J. Rude  
Executive Director

Dr. Robert L. Harrison, DVM  
Director of Animal Care

Diane VonSeggern, RD  
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# RUDE RANCH ANIMAL RESCUE

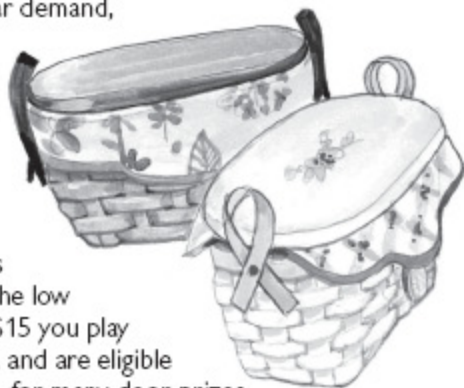
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## Longaberger Basket Bingo 2.0! Basket & Bags Bingo at Rude Ranch!

Back and Upgraded this year! Get your bingo daubers out! Back by popular demand,

Rude Ranch will hold a Spring Basket and Bag Bingo on April 15!

If you've never "bingoed" at a Basket and Bags Bingo before, here's how it works: For the low admission price of \$15 you play 20 rounds of bingo, and are eligible for many door prizes.



There are extra "special games" featuring additional prizes that you can choose to upgrade to during the bingo. The winner of each round of bingo will receive a beautiful Longaberger Basket, or a Vera Bradley, Coach or Longaberger bag filled with all

kinds of useful gadgets! The doors open at noon on April 15 and games begin at 1 pm. Food and Bake Sale to benefit Rude Ranch!

The Basket and Bags Bingo will be held at the Roland Terrace Democratic Club, 619 Matthews Ave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For more info or to purchase tickets go to Rude Ranch's website, [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) or email Rude Ranch at [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).

## The Spay Spa & Neuter Nook

Rude Ranch is excited to announce our plans to open a high quality, low - cost spay and neuter clinic in Davidsonville, MD. Our clinic will be open to anyone who has a passion to help end the pet overpopulation problem in Maryland. Last year Maryland shelters and animal control agencies were forced to euthanize more than 45,000 companion animals due to lack of homes and space in local shelters. We can dramatically reduce this number if everyone pulls together and spays or neuters their pets.

Not only will it reduce the number of animals being euthanized, it has many health benefits for your beloved four-legged family member. It reduces behavior problems, reduces their risk of many forms of cancer and reduces their chance of contracting a variety of diseases.



*Sponsor the Dream!*

Please join us in our effort to end the needless euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals by becoming a spay / neuter sponsor. We have several levels for donor appreciation and recognition starting at \$500. In addition to helping homeless animals and getting a tax deduction, you will have your name prominently displayed on one of our clinic wall plaques. You can do it in your own name, for a friend or family member or in memory of a beloved person or pet. To find out more about our clinic and the various sponsorship levels, go to [www.SpaySpa.org](http://www.SpaySpa.org). We sincerely appreciate your help and support in making this dream a reality.

## Credit Card Processing Changes at Rude Ranch

Although Rude Ranch has gladly accepted online credit card donations securely for several years, we recently switched processing companies, from Give Direct to First Data. Any donation you make through Rude Ranch's website directly with your credit card (not through PayPal) will continue to be processed securely. Your credit card information will be accepted and processed completely through First Data's secure website. You will be returned to the Rude Ranch website afterwards. If you are currently generously donating on a recurring schedule (or would like to) please contact our admin staff at 410.798.9559 or email at [donate@ruderanch.org](mailto:donate@ruderanch.org) to transfer your information to the new company.





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## Racing To The West Coast

Racer is a pretty brown tabby that doesn't like to travel. Racer was born in Maryland almost 5 years ago and lived with his person, Erin, while she was working in Baltimore. Eventually Erin got a job in Sacramento, CA. Soon everything was packed and Erin and Racer were ready to head to the airport for their flight out west. However, once he got to the BWI airport, Racer got into some trouble.

Per TSA regulations, animals must be removed from their carriers and carried through the security gates to board the waiting planes. Once out of the carrier, with all the crowds and noise, Racer got scared. He bit Erin, several times, and got loose on the floor. As more people tried to grab him, he got more scared and started biting everyone that tried



Racer hangs out at Rude Ranch

to grab him. Terrified, he ran off into the airport terminal. Not able to catch Racer, but having to start her new job in a couple of days, Erin had to fly to California without her cat. However, still wanting very much to have Racer with her, Erin left her information with airport officials and the local animal control, hoping he would be found. Racer lived on handouts and fast food in the airport for 3 weeks until he was picked up and taken to the local animal control agency. Remembering that Rude Ranch recently helped Storm (on our front page) get back to his family in Las Vegas, the animal control people figured if Rude Ranch could get a cat to Vegas, we could get a cat to Sacramento! Racer soon came to Rude Ranch while we made arrangements.

We contacted some of the people that offered to go to Vegas with Storm to see if they were interested in traveling to Sacramento with Racer. This time a retired flight attendant from US Airways (retirees also fly free) offered to escort Racer back to Sacramento. (It gave her an excuse to visit friends in Phoenix on the way back)

Between the experience with Storm at the airport and knowing that Racer could bolt and run, we made doubly sure we had a secure carrier and harness on him before turning him over to his escort for the trip. However, once again, he got into trouble, slipped his harness and got loose at the security gates. Fortunately, this time he didn't run as fast (most likely because of those few extra ounces

that he picked up at Rude Ranch) and the guards and his escort caught up with him and stuffed him back into his carrier. From there he just had to change planes in Phoenix and it was off to Sacramento.

Although Racer didn't like traveling at all, he's happy to be back with his human. He's also starting to enjoy the warmer California weather. Erin wrote that Racer loves to lie in the sunshine and watch everyone in his neighborhood from his sunny spot in the window. However, he's hoping he'll never have to get on another plane!



Racer at home in California with his human mom, Erin

## Can't Adopt a Pet Right Now? Sponsor a Rude Ranch Cat!

Want to help a homeless animal, but can't take one more in? Sponsor a Rude Ranch long term resident instead! Your tax deductible sponsorship of a Rude Ranch long-term resident for just \$20 a month (67¢ a day) will provide food, kitty litter and toys for one of our special needs cats. The cats in this program include feral and abused cats, FIV positive and FELV positive cats. Right now most of our FIV cats have sponsors, but a lot of the feral and abused cats are in need. When you sponsor a cat, you'll receive an adoption certificate with pictures of your chosen cat and its history. We will proudly display a picture of your cat with your name as the cat's sponsor on our website. You can even make an appointment to come visit your "virtual adoptee" anytime. For more information, visit our website at [www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org) and click on "Sponsor A Resident". Or email [rrar@ruderanch.org](mailto:rrar@ruderanch.org).





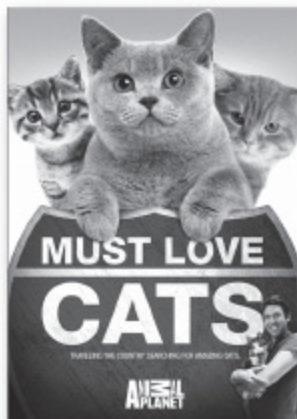


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## "Must Love Cats" Invades Rude Ranch

There was a massive invasion here at Rude Ranch last fall! The cast and crew of the Animal Planet TV show "Must Love Cats" stopped by to tape a story about us! The story started with the crew and host John Fulton driving up to Rude Ranch and Tommy, Rude Ranch's resident feline star running out to greet them. Although it took five tries, both humans and felines finally hit their marks and got the shot! (For the record, Tommy got his part right each time!)



From there the crew visited and filmed each room of the sanctuary, culminating with a visit from a girl scout troop that came by to learn more about taking care of pets. Throughout the entire day, all the Rude Ranch furry residents were on their best behavior until the very end, when Bobby Prancer ran into one of the cameras and wiped out trying to run away in embarrassment.



Must Love Cats Host John Fulton poses with Kathy and Bob of Rude Ranch

Rude Ranch's segment of "Must Love Cats" is tentatively scheduled to premiere April 14th on Animal Planet. Check your local TV listings, [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) or Rude Ranch's Facebook pages for any updates.

## Putts Fore Mutts Scores For Animals!

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue was proud to be chosen as a beneficiary of the 3rd Annual Putts Fore Mutts Golf Tournament, which was held at Queenstown Harbor Golf on October 17.

The Putts Fore Mutts Foundation is a non profit organization that focuses on raising money to help Maryland animal shelters and low cost spay/neuter programs. The annual golf tournament is their signature event.

In addition to playing 18 holes of golf on a beautiful golf course on a day with perfect conditions, the attendees had a long drive contest (Rude Ranch's own Dr. Robert Harrison

won), a putting contest, and a million dollar shoot out. After the tournament, there was a silent auction and dinner. Overall, the Putts Fore Mutts tournament raised over \$21,000 which was split between Rude Ranch and other animal charities. The 4th Annual Putts Fore Mutts Tournament is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2012. Stay tuned for details!



## The Best Little Cat House Still Available

The reviews are still coming in! *The Best Little Cat House in Maryland* is still one of the funniest, most touching books you will ever read! It is the official story of Rude Ranch Animal Rescue and is now available in hard cover, soft cover and kindle editions!

The book explains many little known facts, such as how Rude Ranch got its name, what the Rude Ranch building was originally used for and even explains what to do in unusual situations such as floating down a river in a Chevrolet Suburban or what to do with a run-away goat in the middle of a thunderstorm.



Signed copies are available through the Rude Ranch website, and the Kindle edition is available on Amazon.com! It makes a great gift for any animal lover. The proceeds of each purchase will go right back to the furry residents of Rude Ranch.



CFC #45379



MCC #4650



United Way #9664



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## Ask Tommy: Advice From Our Feline To Yours

Welcome to the latest edition of Ask Tommy. This is where your four-

footed and feathered friends can ask Tommy for advice on how to handle humans. As many know, Tommy led a life of questionable repute before he became a resident here at Rude Ranch. Since then he's had a brief career as a kitty condo model, food taster, and shelter spokesperson. At the ripe old age of 14, he's now "writing" this column to pass his wisdom on to the next generation of felines.

Dear Tommy,

*Spring is almost here and I'm so excited! Not only is it getting warmer and the days are getting longer, everything is getting green and growing outside! I can't wait for my humans to start bringing some of those tasty greens inside! Which brings me to my problem: why do my humans keep taking all those pretty flowers with the tasty green leaves away from me and putting them where I can't reach them?*

Plant Lover

Dear Plant Lover,

All those pretty flowers and lilies are certainly tempting this time of the year! However, by keeping them away from you, your humans are doing their best to protect you from accidentally poisoning yourself. All kinds of Easter lilies, Daylilies, Tiger lilies and even onions and garlic (which are also in the lily family) have something called toxins which are very bad for you. If you even lick one of the leaves or drink a little of the water from these plants this toxin can make your kidneys shut down and kill you.

If you do eat part of this plant, your humans need to rush you to your vet right away, because this stuff starts to attack your body really fast. Once you get to the vet, you will have to eat something called charcoal (no, its not what your humans use to cook outside) and get hooked up to all kinds of needles and tubes to try to pump the poison out of your body. Once you can get past this phase, you will have to have daily fluids until your kidneys recover.

That's a lot to go through just to chew on a couple of



leaves! If you can, convince your humans to get you your own cat grass or catnip plants to graze on. That way you will be happy and your humans won't have to worry about you getting hurt. Also, don't forget, as annoying as your canine siblings can be, these plants are also really bad for them too, so don't try to get the dogs to eat this stuff either!

Your friend, Tommy



## Riding Out The Storm

*Continued from page 1*

forward and offered to escort Storm (parents of Southwest employees can fly free to anywhere Southwest flies.) A plan was forming!

Although Storm now had a ride back to his family, he still needed to be certified healthy enough to travel, which was a bit of a problem: Storm arrived with a bad case of the sniffles that weren't going away. He also needed bloodwork and vaccines. Would he be healthy and ready on the day he was supposed to fly?

Fortunately, Storm's health improved over the weeks; his sniffles cleared up and he was ready for his bloodwork. Dr. Karl Reichardt, DVM, a retired veterinarian also heard Storm's story and volunteered to vaccinate Storm and do his final "pre-flight" check up. Storm was finally ready to fly!

The morning of his flight arrived with much excitement. We carefully packed an emergency bag with extra paper towels, copies of vet records, and treats for Storm. We measured his carrier twice to make sure it met airline size regulations. Knowing that Storm would have to be taken out of his carrier at airport security, we fitted him with a harness and leash in case he freaked out and tried to run away. We carefully turned him over to his escort and said good bye at the airport.

Storm took airport security and his plane ride in stride and was a great traveler, although he did have a "slight" accident somewhere between Milwaukee and Las Vegas. Despite this, he arrived in Vegas and was happily greeted by Derek and Krystal at the gate.

Although he needed a bath as soon as he got home with his family, he spent his first night snuggled in bed with Krystal. He and Derek spent hours getting to know each other again the next day. Storm and Derek plan to continue to have many adventures together in the future, but none quite so dramatic as Storm's last one.





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## Farewell To A Rude Ranch Founder

Sadly, Ceasar, former Rude Ranch greeter has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

Ceasar (June, 1992 - November, 2011) came to Rude Ranch in July, 2000 from a parking lot in Linthicum, MD. He was returned to his original home but kept climbing a chain link fence and escaping. Declaring him a hopeless, uncontrollable explorer, his original family turned him over to Rude Ranch.

Although Ceasar wasn't sure exactly what to make of Rude Ranch, he loved the cats and kittens here and happily helped raise them, teaching many to delicately cross their paws when laying down.

Over the years Ceasar decided that he didn't need to explore and run away so much and, with the exception of a few adventures involving chickens, he settled down into the Rude Ranch routine. He eventually became our greeter, happily meeting people out front and escorting them to the front door.

Ceasar also did his share of fundraising, representing Rude Ranch at Pet Expos, Government Agencies and Walk-a-thons.

Despite excellent health throughout his life, as he aged,

Ceasar developed a few medical problems. His biggest problem was laryngeal paralysis, which restricted his airway, making him unable to breathe.

Ceasar will always be remembered as a gentle soul with a keen intelligence. He was too dignified to play frisbee and chase balls, but he wasn't above out-running and herding other dogs into a corner. He loved to ride in cars, as long as he was riding in the front seat and got to lead the way. Ceasar will be fondly remembered by all who met him!



*Former Rude Ranch Resident, Angel, adopted in 2001, still crosses her paws the way Ceasar taught her.*



### YES, I would like to help the animals . . .

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue relies on donations and volunteers to carry out our mission to save the animals. We receive no federal funding. Your donation of a few dollars\* or a few hours of your time can go a long way toward helping our cause.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: ( ) \$100 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$25 ( ) \$15 ( ) Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) I would like to volunteer

Our Mailing address is: Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, 3200 Ivy Way, Harwood, MD 20776

**New! Donate online with your Mastercard, Visa, or American Express!** Go to [www.RudeRanch.org](http://www.RudeRanch.org) and click on the Visa logo. Donate online with Paypal.com. Our account name is "donate@ruderanch.org"

**Does your employer have a matching donation program?** If so, your donation will be doubled! Please send any matching donation documentation requirements to Rude Ranch and we will gladly process them. Thank you!

\*All donations are tax deductible. \*\* Help us devote more of your donation toward the animals by receiving your receipt by email.



## "I'm looking for a family . . ."

Hi Ya, I'm Frank! My twin brother Peter and I were sent to Rude Ranch from an Animal Control Agency in Delaware 6 years ago. We were adopted by different families, but my people returned me to Rude Ranch because they retired and wanted to travel more. (I would have been more than happy to travel with them!) Anyway, I am now looking for a person or family that likes to play laser tag and watch fish, frogs and birds outside. Contact me at [info@RudeRanch.org](mailto:info@RudeRanch.org).



## Special Thanks To:

Drs. Harrison, Roller, Quinn and staff at Belair Animal Hospital  
Dr. Amy Carney  
Jennifer Elder of The Sustainable CFO  
Our adoptive families, volunteers, and many contributors  
Barb M. & Crofton MinuteMan Press for printing services  
The Thomas E. Quade Foundation  
The Rita M. Gude Foundation  
The Putts Fore Mutts Foundation

## Like To Shop At Food Lion? Join Lion Shop And Share!



When you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP savings card, a portion of your bill will be donated to Rude Ranch! All you have to do is sign up for an MVP bonus card and register with the Community Rewards program. Call 1.877.614.6877 or go to [www.foodlionmvpwards.com](http://www.foodlionmvpwards.com). Click on "Register Your MVP Card", and enter your MVP card number on the next screen. From there you can either enter Rude Ranch's Organization number - 252332, or enter "Rude Ranch Animal Rescue". Don't forget, you have to "re-up" your card every year for Rude Ranch to remain your designated charity. If you signed up more than 12 months ago, please go back and sign up again. Thanks!

## Immediate Needs/Wish List

- Jumbo size litter boxes
- Canned cat food and dog food
- Volunteers
- Toner cartridges for Dell 3115CN printer
- Used Surgical Equipment
- Volunteers to paint/build a spay/neuter clinic
- Newspapers for spay/neuter clinic

United Way # 9664



MCC #4650



CFC #45379



Rude Ranch Animal Rescue  
3200 Ivy Way  
Harwood, MD 20776  
[www.ruderanch.org](http://www.ruderanch.org)



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