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– thanks to you
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generation
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stablemate

January 2013

With thanks for your support for the working animals of the world



Side by side
with working
animals for
90 years

Maimed by
harmful
traditions

Page 10



Thirsty work

Your support is helping to save the lives of thirsty
working animals. Pages 4 and 5

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Dear Friend

I want to start by expressing my gratitude for your kind support over the past year. I also want to extend a warm welcome to all of you who are new to supporting SPANA.



Last year was incredibly busy for us and in this issue of Stablmate we reflect on just a few of the challenges we encountered in the past 12 months. Thanks to your compassion and generosity we cared for over 400,000 working animals – that's more than 1,000 every single day.

A new year always brings fresh challenges and this one will be no exception. However, I'm sure that together we can help ease the suffering of even more working animals.

In this edition of Stablmate you'll be able to read about the difference your support makes to animals around the world. On the next page you can see how your generosity is helping to prevent the needless loss of sight, which often causes animals to be abandoned or put down. You can also find out how you're supporting thirsty animals toiling in hot, desert cities by providing them with fresh, clean water. On pages 12 and 13 you can find out how we are working towards a world where all animals are treated with care and compassion, by inspiring empathy for animals in thousands of children in Ethiopia.

This year has an added significance: it is the year we celebrate our 90th anniversary and we will be marking this milestone with a number of commemorative events throughout the year. I am calling on our staff, volunteers, vets and technicians in the field and also supporters like you to make this year, a year to remember.

As we receive no government funding, without you, we simply can not meet the challenges of the year ahead. So please, if you can, send a gift and help us make a great start to our 90th anniversary year. On your donation form, you'll see that you have an opportunity to support the different projects featured in this edition of Stablmate – or you can give to wherever the need is greatest, which would allow us to use your gift in the most effective way.

Finally and most importantly, many thanks for your continuing support.

Jeremy Hulme
Chief Executive



Saving precious sight – thanks to you

Working animals that lose their sight are of little use to their impoverished owners and are sometimes abandoned to die or put to sleep. This terrible loss of life is usually preventable with effective, and often simple, treatment.

That's why we launched an urgent appeal in spring 2012 to raise vital money for eye medicines, equipment and owner education to save the sight of more working animals.

You are helping to ease animal suffering

Thanks to supporters like you, our vets are saving the sight of hundreds of animals every week. However, such is the demand for vital sight saving medicines at our

veterinary centres, supplies constantly need replenishing. We've already used your support to buy sedatives, antibiotic eye drops and painkillers to treat working donkeys and horses at risk of losing their sight. We rely on your continuing support to save the most precious sense a working animal has.

Your help also educates more animal owners. Most owners simply aren't aware of how serious equine eye conditions can be – or even what signs they should be looking out for. For that reason, lots of agonising eye conditions can go untreated for some time. This needless suffering could be averted if we can raise additional funds to help us run more workshops teaching owners about eye conditions – in addition to maintaining stocks of sight saving medicines.



A working donkey being examined by Jane, a SPANA vet

You can help today. Owner education, research into the prevention of eye conditions, and eye medicines, have the power to save more animals' sight and their lives.

How you can help

You could save an animal's sight with a gift of just £6

Your donation today could go a long way in helping animals with eye problems.

£6.00 can supply the painkillers, antibiotics and bandages SPANA vets need to save a donkey's eye sight



£11.00 can provide the vital medicines needed to save the sight of a horse

£30.90 could pay for an eight-day course of painkillers to ease the suffering of ten donkeys

To support our sight saving work please tick the appropriate box on your donation form.

CASE STUDY

Megala's sight was saved thanks to you

Recently, a cart horse named Megala was brought into our veterinary centre in Ethiopia by her worried owner. She was suffering with a condition that was so painful she was unable to open her eye. Thanks to the kind donations we receive from people like you, our vet was able to treat the severe infection with a course of antibiotic ointment. Our vets examined Megala again a week later and were delighted to see she was back to full health. Megala's owner was overjoyed, as his family relies on her to earn an income.



"If my horse were to lose her eyes, I wouldn't be able to provide food for my family."

Alemayehu, Megala's owner

Your support is helping to save the lives of thirsty working animals around the world

You may have read about our recent project to bring a supply of clean fresh water to animals in the city of Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital city. This is one of the driest cities on Earth and 50,000 cart donkeys trudge the long sandy roads for more than 12 hours a day in searing heat.

Thanks to the support of people like you, we're now in the process of building water troughs for these hardworking animals. Our project coordinator will be visiting Nouakchott soon to see the work in progress and we promise to bring you photographs and an update shortly.

Providing water troughs for working animals has already proved highly successful in Marrakech, Morocco. Many of the

city's one million residents rely on their animals to earn a living. Each day, thousands of donkeys, horses and mules carry heavy loads in stifling heat, while calèche horses work as taxis, pulling carriages of tourists and locals around the city.

It's a hard life, but until SPANA and our supporters took action in 2008, it was almost unbearable. There was a severe lack of fresh water available to the working animals of Marrakech, and after years of pitifully low rainfall, any water troughs that did exist were bone dry. Without water, many of the city's working animals were severely dehydrated. This could lead to debilitating and sometimes fatal health problems, such as kidney failure and heat exhaustion.

That's why in 2008 we launched Project Fresh Water with the aim of bringing a lifesaving drink to the working animals of Marrakech. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you we provided

eight water troughs around this arid city. We made sure that the troughs were positioned at key locations, including waiting points for calèche horses, giving animals easy access to fresh water. The project has been incredibly successful, transforming the working lives of thousands of horses, donkeys and mules. Today our vets see far fewer animals suffering with dehydration.

The SPANA water troughs are a lifeline to the city's working animals, but we are relying on your support to keep them filled with water, maintained and cleaned throughout the coming year. Your support this year can also help us run and maintain the mobile water tank we use to fill the troughs.

By making a donation today you will help us make sure that the working animals of Marrakech and Nouakchott always have a supply of lifesaving water. It's the very least these hardworking animals deserve.

Thanks to you...

- Our vets see far fewer life-threatening conditions caused by dehydration in Marrakech
- The troughs in Marrakech are filled with fresh, lifesaving water on a daily basis
- SPANA is building water troughs at key locations around Nouakchott for the benefit of the cities hundreds of water-cart donkeys



SPANA water troughs will make life more bearable for hundreds of hard working donkeys that deliver water around Nouakchott

How your support has helped: a letter from our veterinary clinic manager



Dr Hassan Lamrini

In Marrakech, over 500 calèche horses pull taxi carriages all day in temperatures that in the summer can reach 50°C. Before the

introduction of SPANA water troughs, as a vet working in the centre in Marrakech, I used to treat many dehydrated horses every day.

Keeping their horses properly hydrated used to be a big problem for the calèche drivers. Water points were few and far between, so they simply could not find enough water to quench their animals' thirst.

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, the construction of drinking troughs across the

city in 2008 means that calèche horses now have easy access to a drink of water whenever they need it. The water troughs are cleverly placed at several locations where drivers and horses congregate to wait for business and have dramatically improved working conditions for both the drivers and horses alike.

Keeping the troughs full of water, clean and maintained is a full time job for the driver and horses which pull our traveling water tank around the city. It is vital we are able to maintain this service for the sake of all the working animals in Marrakech.

Best wishes to all SPANA supporters for their compassion.

Dr Hassan Lamrini
Veterinary Clinic Manager,
SPANA Marrakech



Two healthy working horses pulling the SPANA mobile water tank

How you can help

You can help us provide lifesaving water for a year

Your support will keep the water troughs of Marrakech full of water for another year. Your gift today could make all the difference.

£20.00 could provide a week's food for the three horses we use to pull the mobile water tank



£50.00 can help pay for a month's upkeep of the mobile water tank which fills the water troughs



£137.00 will pay for thorough cleaning and repair of one of the eight water troughs



To help bring fresh water to working animals, please turn to the donation form. Thank you.

How the economic crisis is affecting working animals

The financial downturn has probably affected you and people close to you, but did you know that rising prices are having an impact on our efforts to help working animals too?

Rising fuel and energy costs are a worldwide problem, affecting not just the UK but countries across the world. As the table on this page shows, the prices of fuel, barley and fodder in Ethiopia have risen sharply in the past three years. Fuel prices alone have risen in that period by an incredible 90 percent.

Fuelling the price rises

The costs of basic supplies and equipment have also soared recently. This means that providing veterinary care to animals in need has become increasingly expensive for SPANA.

Of course fuel is a necessity our

mobile clinics rely on in order to function. Regularly visiting various souks and remote villages, our mobile clinics reach a huge number of the animals we treat, and without SPANA, these animals would have no other access to veterinary treatment. We are, of course, committed to maintaining these lifesaving services, which is why your support is more important than ever to help us cope with these rising expenses.

Food for thought

Fuel isn't the only commodity that is going up in price. Fodder and barley have dramatically increased in price due to poor harvests around the world last year. Our veterinary centres use barley on a daily basis to feed animals recovering from injuries and illnesses. Yet in Ethiopia, for example, the cost of barley has increased by 40 percent.

With your help, we can make sure that working animals get the help they need through the economic downturn and beyond.

This chart shows how price rises have affected us

	2009	2012	Price Rise
 Barley	5 birr/kilo	7 birr/kilo	40%
 Fodder	25 birr/bale	35 birr/bale	40%
 Fuel	8.88 birr/litre	16.87 birr/litre	90%

Based on Ethiopian prices

Celebrating 90 years of compassion for working animals

If you've been supporting SPANA for a while the chances are you already know about our inspiring history. But if you're a new supporter, we thought you might like to know more about how it all began...

Travelling on their own through north Africa in 1923, Kate Hosali and her daughter Nina witnessed the terrible suffering of working animals. They felt impassioned to set up a free service which offered practical help to working animals and their owners abroad. SPANA was born.

After opening our first veterinary clinic in Algeria in 1924, word soon spread of SPANA's lifesaving work. Over the years, thanks to kind donations from animal lovers like you, SPANA has since established centres across north and west Africa and later in Syria, Jordan and Ethiopia.

With your support we have eased the suffering of millions of working animals and through our education and training programmes we're working to create a more compassionate world for working animals.



SPANA's founder, Kate Hosali



Ninety Stride Out events for 90 years



This year we're asking our supporters to go that extra mile for working animals – literally. 'Stride Out for Working Animals' is our new annual fundraising event and with your help we want to make it an extra special 90th anniversary celebration. Could you arrange a Stride Out event with your family, friends or colleagues? It could be a walk, run, cycle or horse ride – and every single pound you raise will go a very long way to help donkeys, horses, camels and other animals in desperate need. Perhaps you could motivate your local ramblers club, running club or riding stables to get involved too.

With your help we aim to have 90 Stride Out events this year around the country to celebrate 90 years of compassion for working animals. To request your event pack or to find out more about Stride Out, please call us on 020 7831 3999, email events@spana.org or visit www.spana.org/strideout

If you can't hold your own Stride Out event why not come along to our fun packed Stride Out day in Cheltenham this summer – we'll be letting you know all the details nearer the time. So watch this space!

SPANA's 90th anniversary reception

The centerpiece of our 90th anniversary celebrations will be a grand reception in London. Places are limited so if you'd like to register your interest today, please call us on 020 7831 3999 or events@spana.org.



Reaching out to more animals around the world

Our Outreach programme supports local partners around the world who share our passion and concern for working animals. Thanks to supporters like you we are reaching out to even more countries in 2013. Here are just a few examples...

Botswana

Ear-tagging to reduce road fatalities

SPANA funding – **£3,184**

In northern Botswana, SPANA is supporting a local animal charity called Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS), which is working to protect working animals from being killed by cars and trucks on the roads. Donkeys are straying onto roads at night whilst grazing, and by the time drivers see them, it's often too late.

With your help SPANA is funding MAWS's lifesaving project which involves the ear-tagging of 500 working donkeys with pairs of reflective tags. By making donkeys more visible to passing motorists at night, we hope to reduce the number of animals killed or injured each year in road traffic accidents.

“Maun's residents are well aware of the problem of donkeys on the road. As a result, the reaction to our donkey ear tagging project has been phenomenal, and the entire community has warmly welcomed the idea. We are hoping this could be the first step on the road towards making reflective tags a legal requirement for freely-roaming livestock.”

Ally Lamb, MAWS Chairlady



Thanks to you...

- We've been able to give over £15,000 to support local partners in Botswana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Zambia
- These new projects will make a difference to over 20,000 animals in 2013



Reflective ear tags will save animals' lives

Sierra Leone

Promoting animal welfare

SPANA funding – **£4,312**

SPANA's local partner in Sierra Leone, CCA-SL, is dedicated to promoting and protecting animal welfare through education, advocacy and animal care. Thanks to the donations we receive from our supporters, we are funding a two-day workshop for livestock owners in animal management and welfare. During 2013, we will also be helping to establish 'animal kindness' clubs in schools. These initiatives will help to improve the future for animals in Sierra Leone.

Burkina Faso

Caring for livestock in rural villages

SPANA funding – **£3,907**

Your support means SPANA can fund APPILD, an organisation which promotes local development initiatives.

In arid rural areas of Burkina Faso, many people rely on traditional livestock herding for their livelihoods. By working alongside APPILD for a year, we will be helping to improve the welfare of animals by supporting the training of 31 animal health workers. Thanks to supporters like you we will also be supplying veterinary products to help treat 6,200 animals in rural villages in the Loumbila area.

Tackling the terrible suffering caused by dental disease

As you may have read in a recent SPANA News, it's very important for equines to receive regular dental check-ups and care. If teeth aren't regularly rasped, sharp edges can develop and cause painful sores on the insides of the cheeks, the mouth or tongue.

The constant pain from these sores and other teeth abnormalities can make it impossible to eat, affecting the animal's strength and making it susceptible to other illnesses. It's the start of a downward spiral which can eventually cost an animal their life.

You are helping to tackle dental disease

In May 2012 we appealed to our supporters for help in tackling the issue of dental disease amongst working equids. Thanks to the wonderful response we receive from our supporters we've been able to buy more specialist equipment and run more free awareness training sessions for owners at our clinics.

A very common problem

In the countries where SPANA works, dental problems amongst working animals are all too common. One study of working equids in Morocco showed that 85 percent had dental problems. What's more, many of these problems are already chronic by the time our vets see them because owners don't know how to recognise the signs of this

disease. Some of the horses and donkeys our vets see have been in pain for months, or even longer.

With your continued support, we are determined to end this terrible suffering.



Thanks to you...

...our vets carried out 5,802 tooth rasping treatments between June and November 2012

CASE STUDY

Your support helped to end Hassan's agony

A mule called Hassan had been suffering with dental disease for up to two years when his owner brought him to our centre in Chemaia, Morocco. He hadn't been eating properly for months and as you can see from the photo above, he was painfully thin. Our vet soon discovered the source of his suffering – his teeth were severely overgrown and were causing deep, painful sores on the inside of his cheeks. Our vet rasped Hassan's teeth and advised the owner to bring him to SPANA for regular check-ups to avoid future problems.



A horse receiving dental treatment at a SPANA clinic

How you can help

Help end the unseen despair of dental disease

You can help us end the suffering of donkeys and horses like Hassan by making a gift towards our work today. Whatever you can spare could make a huge difference. *Thank you.*

£15.00 could buy a head torch to help a vet examine and treat working animals with dental disease

£50.00 could go towards the cost of running a free dental awareness workshop to help encourage owners to care for their animal's teeth

£100.00 could buy a rasp which will be used to file down sharp edges or overgrown teeth to relieve an animal's pain

Maimed by traditional practices

In many of the countries where we work, sick or injured animals are being treated with traditional 'remedies' that sometimes do more harm than good. That's why, in autumn 2012, we launched an appeal to stamp out harmful traditional practices.

Why is it happening?

In the countries where we work, in rural areas, veterinary treatment can be difficult to access because vets are few and far between. Either that or their fees are unaffordable to families living in poverty. Sick or injured animals are therefore treated using

traditional 'cures' that have been passed down from generation to generation. In many countries where we work, some people continue to believe that pressing burning hot metal into their animal's skin will cure lameness and other conditions. However, instead of curing the problem, this misguided practice, known as firing, causes terrible burns and extreme pain. Many conditions that could be easily treated by a professional vet can soon turn into potentially deadly infections contracted through the wounds caused by traditional practices.

Your support helps us raise awareness of this alarming issue and will enable us to treat animals whose illnesses are being made

unbearably worse by such traditional 'remedies'.

Treatment is only half of the solution

Only education will stamp out traditional practices for good and thanks to people like you we are working at the heart of communities, encouraging compassion and developing people's animal welfare knowledge. By gaining the trust of owners and communities through educational workshops, we hope to replace harmful traditional practices with correct and compassionate animal care. It's going to take time, but with your support we are committed to ending this needless suffering.

CASE STUDY

Bulo's firing wounds were treated thanks to you

Our vet team in Ethiopia recently treated a 16-year-old horse called Bulo, whose lameness had been aggravated by the use of firing. The red hot irons used to fire Bulo had also left terrible wounds, making him vulnerable to serious infections. Bulo's owner, Gashaw, had been advised by his friends to fire his horse, but the lameness had only worsened. After cleaning and treating Bulo's burn wounds and giving him painkillers, antibiotics and an anti-tetanus injection, our vet talked to Gashaw about the dangers of firing. Gashaw was very remorseful and promised that he would never use firing on any of his animals again.



Bulo had severe wounds from firing

How you can help

Whatever you can give today will help us to treat animals and educate owners. Please help us stamp out harmful traditional practices. **Thank you!**

£15.85 will provide the antibiotics, painkillers and anti-tetanus injection used to treat one animal that has been injured by firing

£27.00 buys the medicines needed to treat three donkeys with serious wounds caused by nostril slitting

£50.00 pays for one owner to attend an education workshop where he will learn about the dangers of harmful traditional practices and how to improve his animal care skills

Your support is changing the way people care for their animals

Thanks to your help, SPANA gives expert veterinary help to animals that have suffered through traditional practices like firing. But we're also using your support to transform the lives of working animals by preventing problems before they start.

Following your kind support we are just about to appoint a community education advisor who will help to transform the lives of animals across the countries where we work. The advisor will work closely with animal owners and providers of animal welfare services to help change the way animals are treated, preventing untold suffering.

Our advisor will work to increase knowledge within communities



about the treatment and services available to their animals – such as the latest vaccines and skilled farriers. So rather than taking an animal to a local healer who might use a traditional practice such as

firing, more people can access effective and expert animal care.

This new, lifesaving role will be filled very soon

Many animals also suffer preventable injuries due to ill-fitting harnesses and unsuitable tack. That's why our advisor will also work with local businesses like traditional shoe, harness and cart makers, to make sure they provide properly fitting equipment to animals and prevent any future suffering.

This is an exciting new area of work which could not have been possible without your help, so thank you again for your support.



A SPANA vet treats a horse with painful wounds caused by a traditional practice known as firing

Educating a generation of animal lovers

Books and games are a wonderful way to teach children about how to care for and respect animals. These inspiring and creative resources stimulate children's imaginations and develop knowledge and understanding. That's why we're launching a new appeal to fill the libraries of three SPANA education centres in Ethiopia with inspirational animal books, creative games and realistic animal figures.

With your help we can stimulate empathy and compassion for animals in the next generation of owners, which will help to create a better world for working donkeys, horses, mules and camels.

In many developing countries children often grow up without even a basic knowledge of animal welfare. Therefore when children become adults and animal owners, they don't have the skills and empathy needed to give animals the care they deserve. Many injuries and illnesses our vets treat aren't due to deliberate cruelty, but are the result of a lack of knowledge.

That's why we are working to encourage compassion for animals in the next generation of animal owners.

Hundreds of schoolchildren (aged from eight to 16) come to learn about animal welfare at SPANA's three education centres in Ethiopia every year. Yet we do not have enough vital resources to go



SPANA's education centres give children a hands-on experience of animals

around. That's why we need your support to put inspiring, informative and creative educational resources into the hands of children, which will help stimulate the interest and empathy that all children naturally have towards animals.

You can help today

Whatever you can send will make a difference. A gift of £15 will help us buy books, animal figurines and games, creating a fantastic collection of animal welfare resources for children to use. This will support our successful education programme and provide a vital resource that will stimulate imagination and learning. Your support will also pay for shipping of the resources to Ethiopia and

distribution to our centres. To make a donation to our Education appeal please tick the appropriate box on your donation form.

There's even space on the enclosed donation form for you to write a message to the hundreds of children that come to learn at the resource centres. It could be something to inspire the children in their learning, an interesting fact about an animal that you would like to share with them, or simply the reasons you choose to support the work of SPANA.

To help put inspiring and informative animal welfare education resources into the hands of Ethiopian children, please turn to your donation form. Thank you.

How you can help

Your gift will help us bring education to children across the countries where we work, making sure the working animals of tomorrow are treated well. Please use the donation form to make your gift. *Thank you!*

£12.40 would pay for two animal games for schoolchildren, helping them to learn how to care for animals through play

£25.00 buys five story or picture books which children will use to learn about animal welfare

£50.00 buys two encyclopedias providing a wealth of knowledge about the animal kingdom

£100.00 goes towards the cost of shipping books and other educational resources to Ethiopia and then distribution to our three education centres



Thanks to you... Last year we educated over 46,000 children across all the countries we work in. Your support will make it possible to reach even more in 2013



Your support goes a long way

Thanks to your generosity we are helping to ease the pain and suffering of working animals. Here are just a few examples of how your support is making a difference.

Mauritania

The scorched, rough ground in Mauritania is hard on working animals' feet, making life even tougher for donkeys which have to carry heavy loads for hours in the intense heat. Good farriery is therefore vital, but sadly many owners don't have access to skilled farriers. As a result, our vets see thousands of donkeys which have been shod inappropriately or have overgrown hooves. These problems are a major cause of lameness in working animals.



Mali

Tetanus is a deadly risk for the donkeys working on the rubbish dumps in Bamako. With your support our vets are working hard to vaccinate donkeys against this agonising disease. In 2011, we vaccinated 2,055 donkeys against tetanus.



Jordan

In Jordan, dental disease is common amongst working animals. Most owners don't know how to recognise the signs so donkeys and horses often suffer in silence for months. With your continued support, our vets are easing the pain caused by dental disease. Our free workshops also make more owners aware of signs and symptoms. SPANA's education centre in Jordan hosts a series of Animal Clubs which help children understand the important role animals play in our lives.



Ethiopia

Respiratory problems are a very common cause of discomfort for working animals in Ethiopia. Another source of terrible suffering for working animals is a dangerous fungal infection called epizootic lymphangitis. With your support we've established a very busy permanent veterinary clinic in Debre Zeit and we are also able to run two mobile clinics.



Kenya



Northern Kenya is an isolated and undeveloped region where many communities are reliant on animals for their livelihoods. Droughts are common and they can have terrible consequences for working animals, livestock and the families that rely on them. Thanks to your donations during the devastating drought of 2011, SPANA worked to safeguard livestock and protect communities that depend totally on animals for their livelihoods. With your help we fed 50,000 head of livestock and vaccinated 80,000 sheep and goats against contagious diseases.

Zambia

With your help SPANA has been able to fund a new partner in Zambia, providing veterinary services and training to animal owners. Over the next year, we will be supporting the vaccination of 15,000 oxen against infectious diseases. Community livestock workers will be trained and farmers will be invited to monthly meetings to discuss livestock issues. In addition, around 900 working donkeys will receive treatment through a mobile clinic visiting rural areas.



- Outreach & emergency work
- Our core countries of work

Ethiopia supporters' tour

In 2013 SPANA is organising a special tour to Ethiopia, to let committed supporters like you see firsthand how your help is transforming the lives of working animals.

The nine day trip includes visits to some magical locations, including a guided tour of Addis Ababa and its streets lined with jarcaranda trees and a visit to Lalibela with its collection of monolithic churches, pictured to the right, that were hewn out of the local granite rock.

As you'd expect, the group will also visit some truly inspiring SPANA projects. There are nearly two million working horses in Ethiopia, and our veterinary teams are bringing much-needed treatment to many of them, all thanks to you!

If you'd like to take a trip with a difference, and to see how your generosity is helping the lives of working animals, this really will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. To find out more, please call us on **020 7831 3999** or email **events@spana.org**



Happy Hooves Sale!

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