

Animal Control - Snakes

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A Retirement Home for Snakes
www.snakehaus.com

Animal Control - Snakes

Who are we?

What do we do?



Who are we?

Sara Mayes DVM: Cascade Animal Clinic, Monroe

Nicky Finch DVM: WSU Veterinary teaching hospital

Kami Wasilchen LVT: Cascade Animal Clinic, Monroe

Mirko Mayes, Mark Surber, & friends



What do we do?



VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED





Snake Haus West: Giants
Snake Haus East: Littles

What do you need to know?

- Basic identification
- Animal advocate – How to identify NEGLECT & When to intervene
- Safe capture and handling
- Transportation & Housing
- Meet the Animals



Basic Identification

- **Colubrids:** Corns, Kings, Rats, Milk
(The largest snake family)



Pythons: Balls, Burms, Retics,
Blood, Carpets

Boas: Red tails, Brazilian
Rainbows, Anacondas



Giants: respect their size, call for help

- Reticulated python
- Boas (the large ones)
- Anacondas
- Burmese python



Where are they from

Boas: the Americas

- Boa constrictor spp and sub spp
- Anacondas

Pythons: Asia and Aus

- Reticulated python
- Burmese python



Colubrids: found on every continent except antartica

Behavior

Colubrids – fast and agile

Pythons – variable

- Burms, blood, and balls: slow and cautious
- Retics, carpets: fast and agile

Boas – slow and cautious

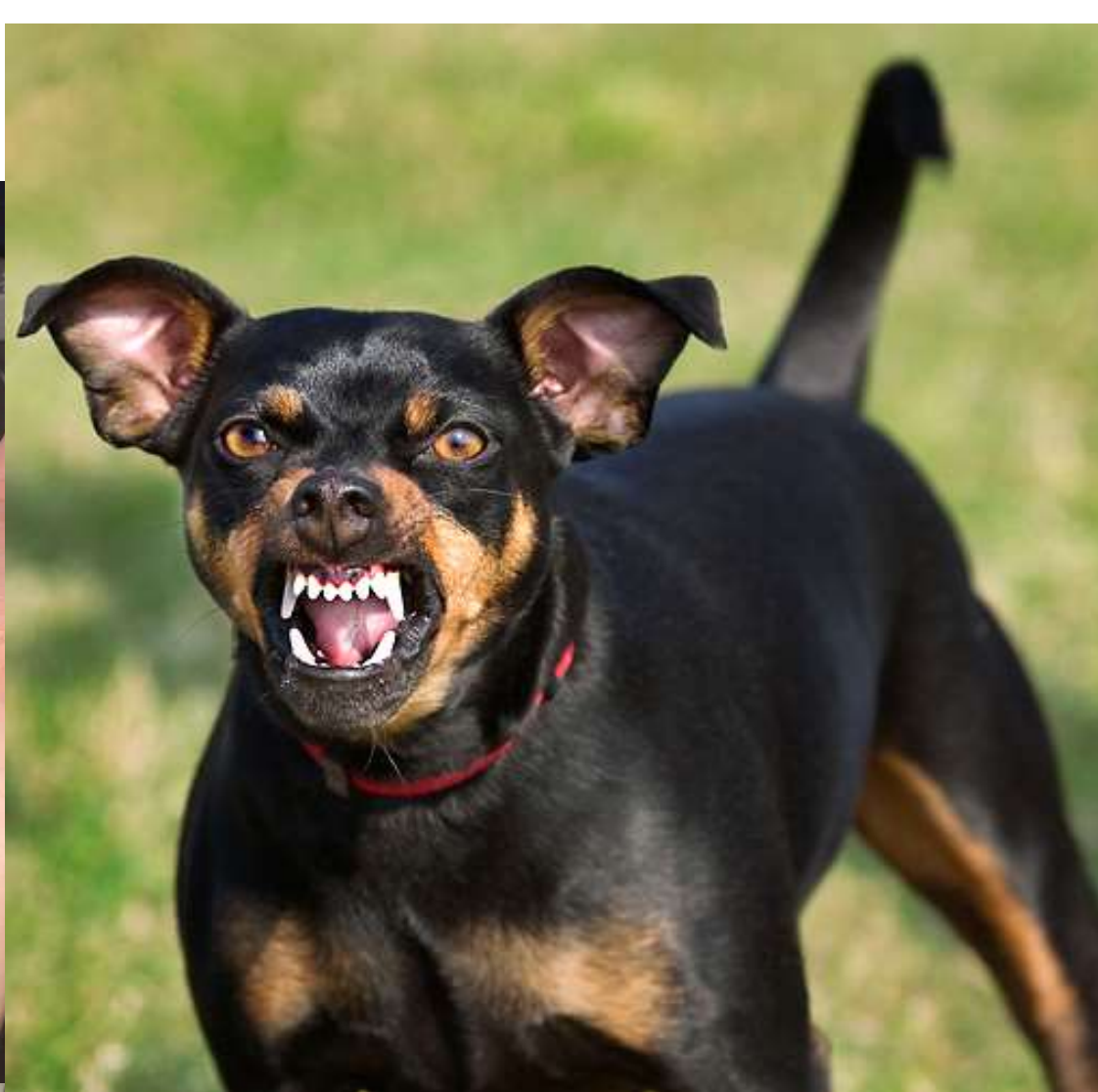


Corn Snake

nd fast



Milk Snake



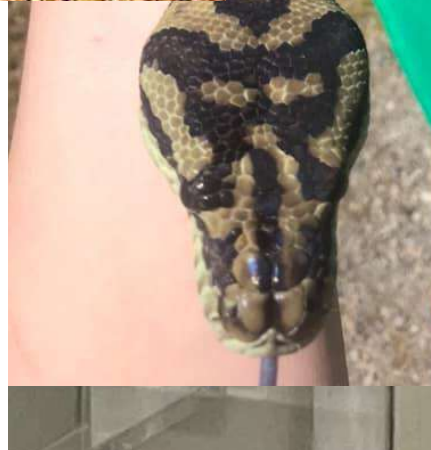
endous variation



Ball Python



ous variation



Carpet Python

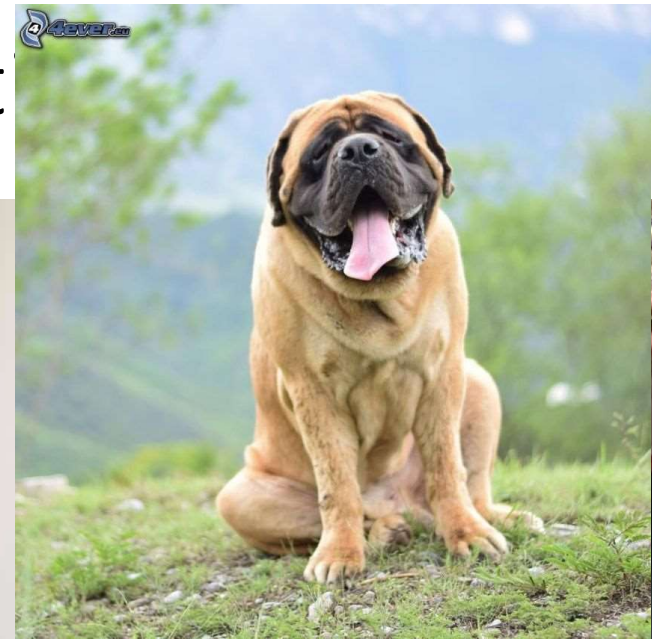
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Reticulated Python

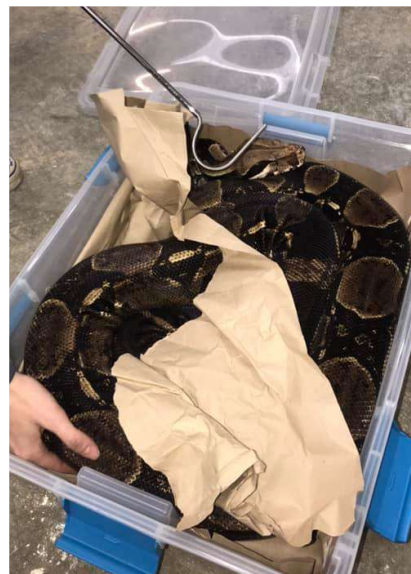
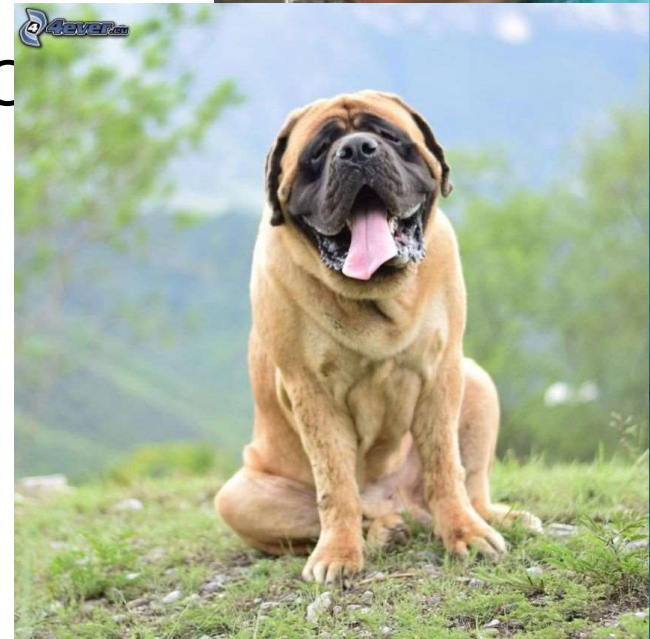


Burmese Python

Boas – Red tails and Comm



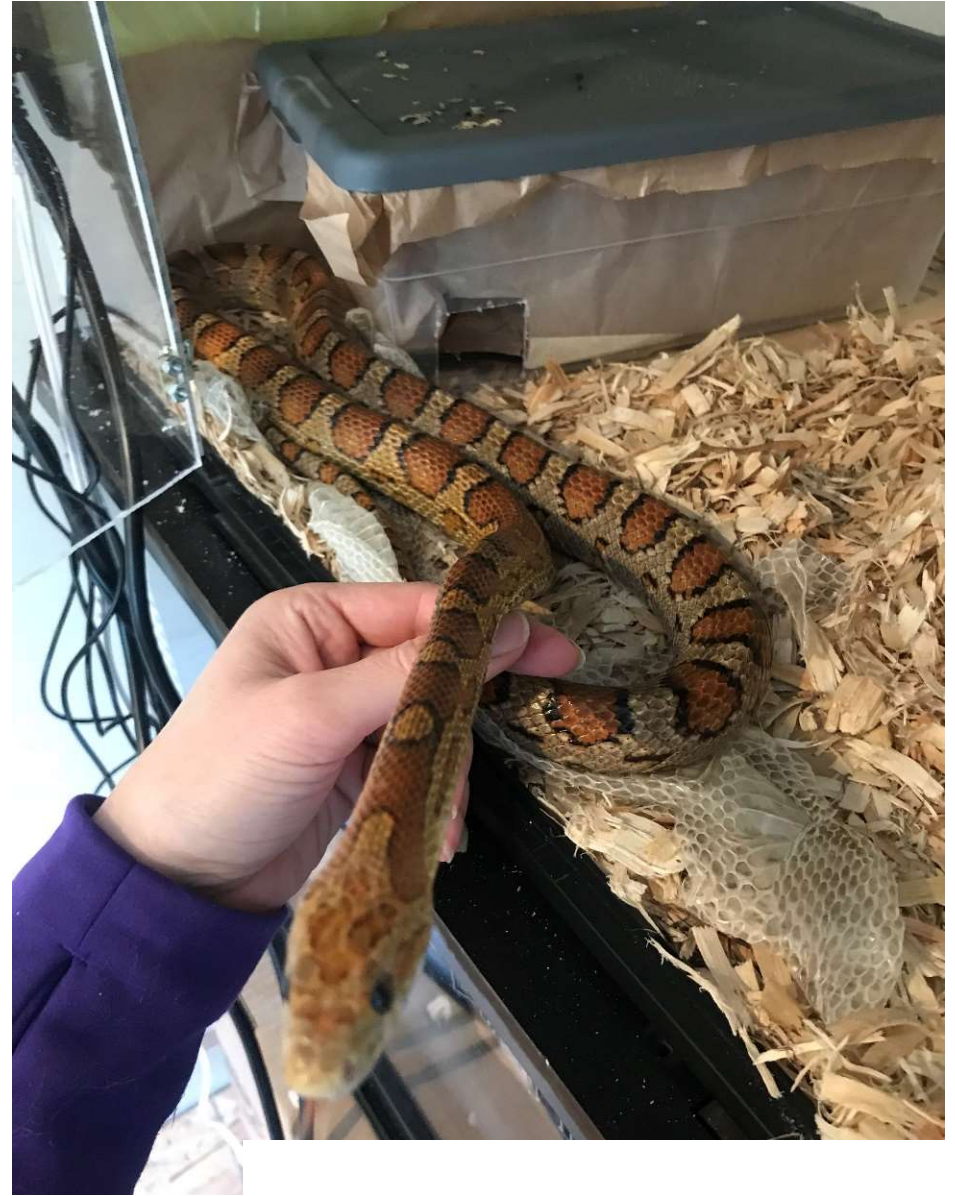
Boas – Red tails and Common boas



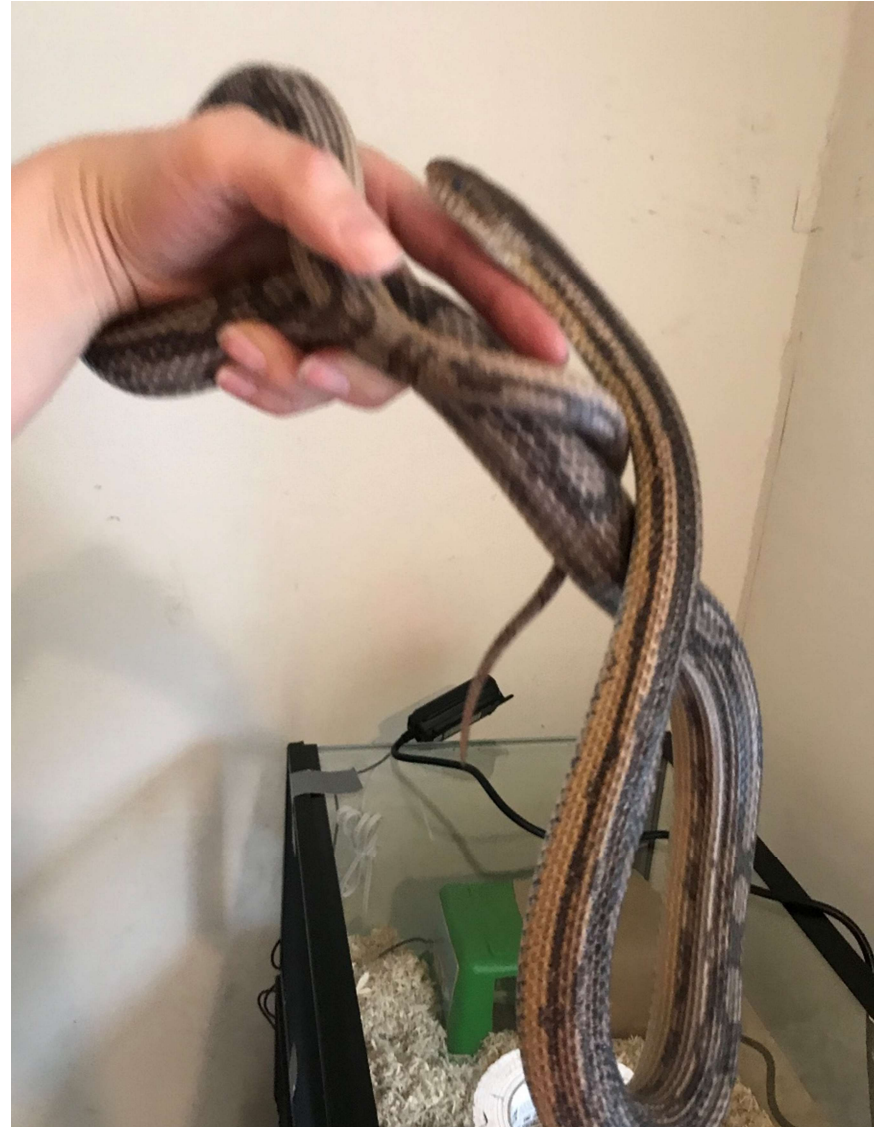
Boas – other boas



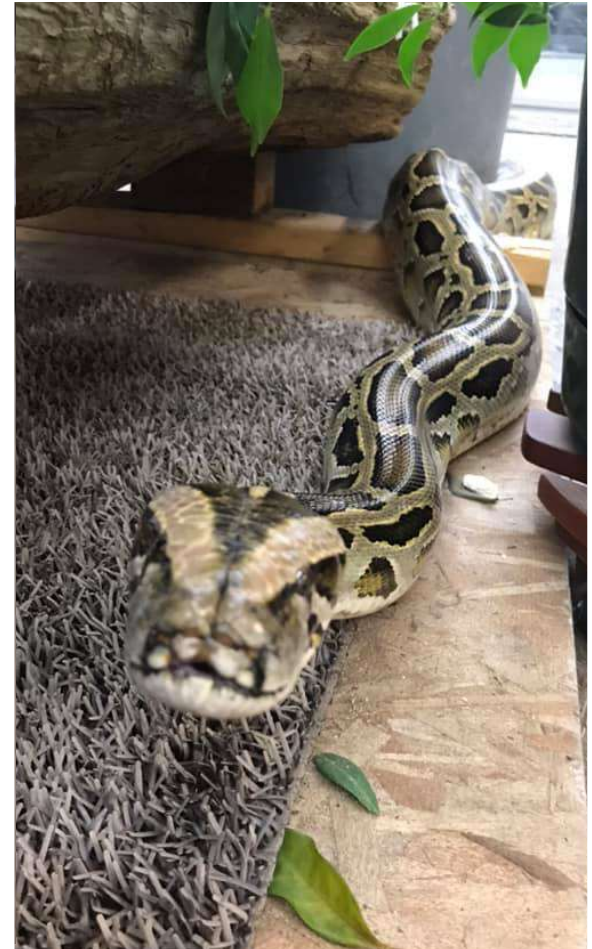
POP QUIZ – who am I?



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POP QUIZ – who am I?



POP QUIZ – who am I?



POP QUIZ – who am I?



Basic Care

- **Heat:** cold blooded - can not survive long without heat (80-95 degrees)
- **Water:** need clean water for bathing and for drinking
- **Contained:** can not survive out of their enclosure
- **Clean:** they do not have the ability to get away from their own excrement
- **Hides:** positive thigmotaxis; sensitive and need to feel safe
- **Substrate:** must be present and clean
- **Food:** mice, rats, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs – prekilled or frozen/thawed

When to intervene

- Neglect
 - Too cold
 - No water
 - Extremely dirty
 - Live food should NEVER be left in enclosure
- Injured
 - Wounds: bites, burns, or rubs
- Other illness
 - Skin dz
 - Mites
 - Respiratory dz
 - Mouth rot
 - Eyes
 - Spinal deformities



Neglect— basic husbandry

- Old poop
- Shed skin
- Dirty water
- Broken items
- Heat

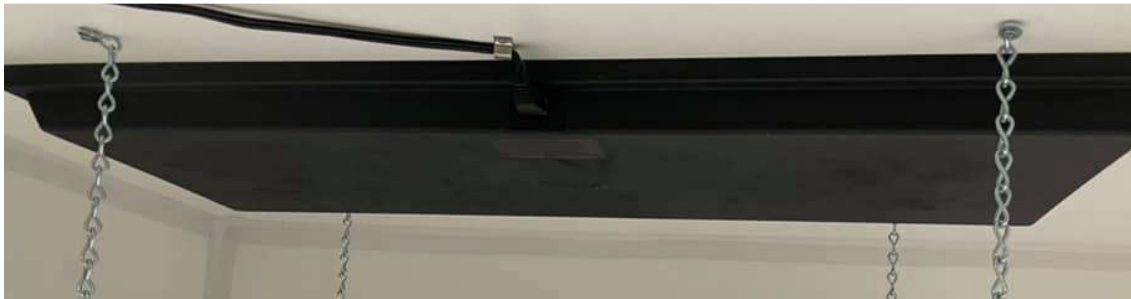


Heat? **Water?** **Contained?** **Clean?** **Hides?** **Substrate?** **Food?**

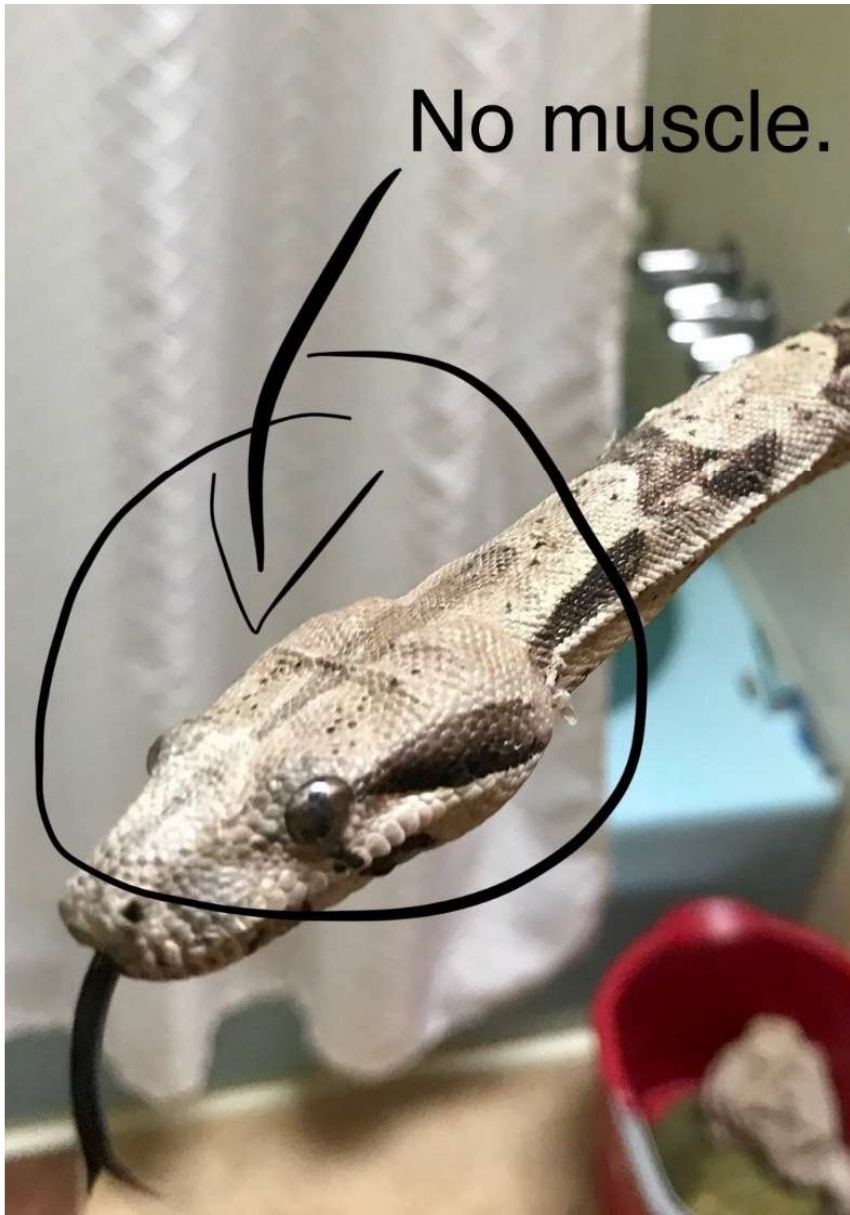
When to intervene: NO heat



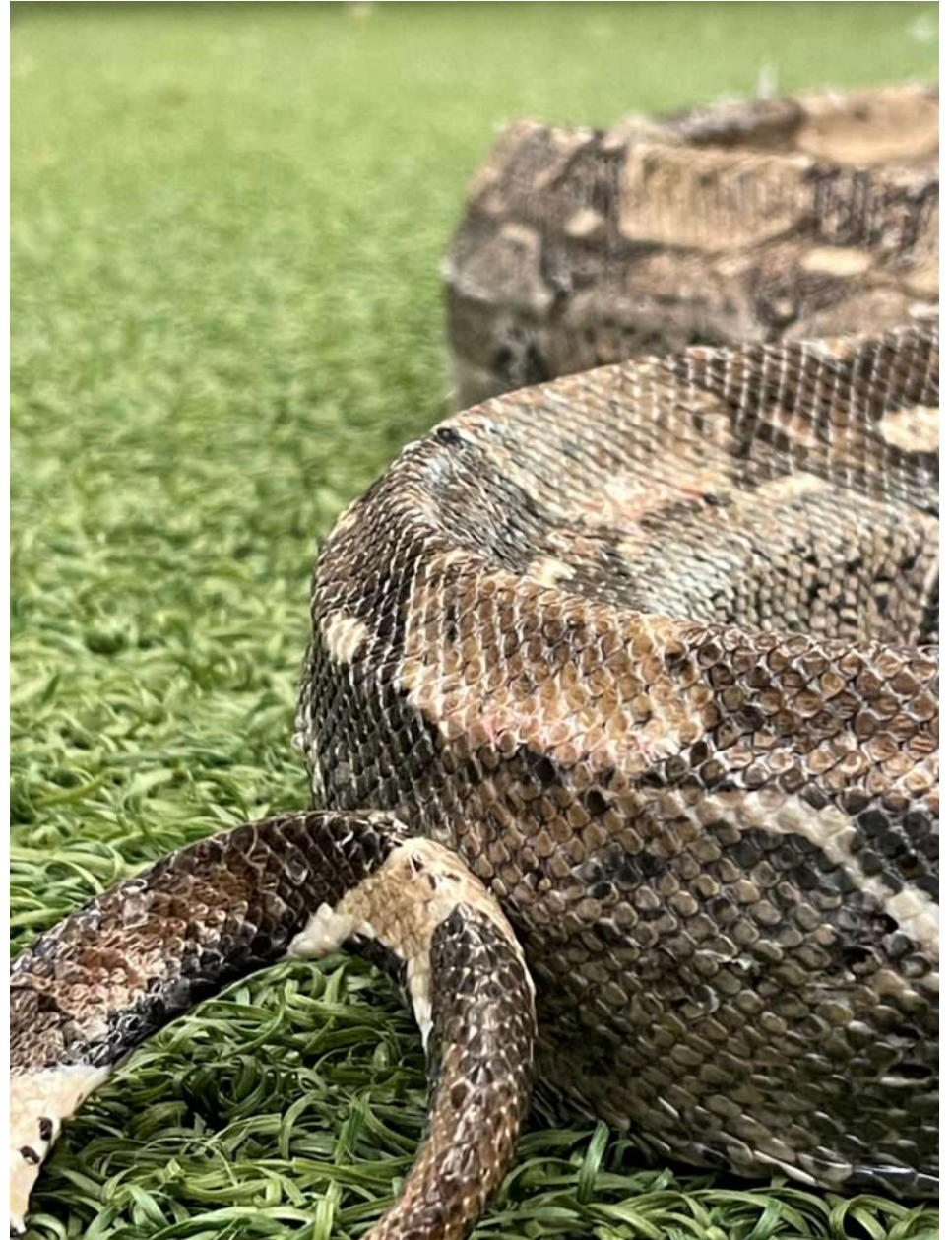
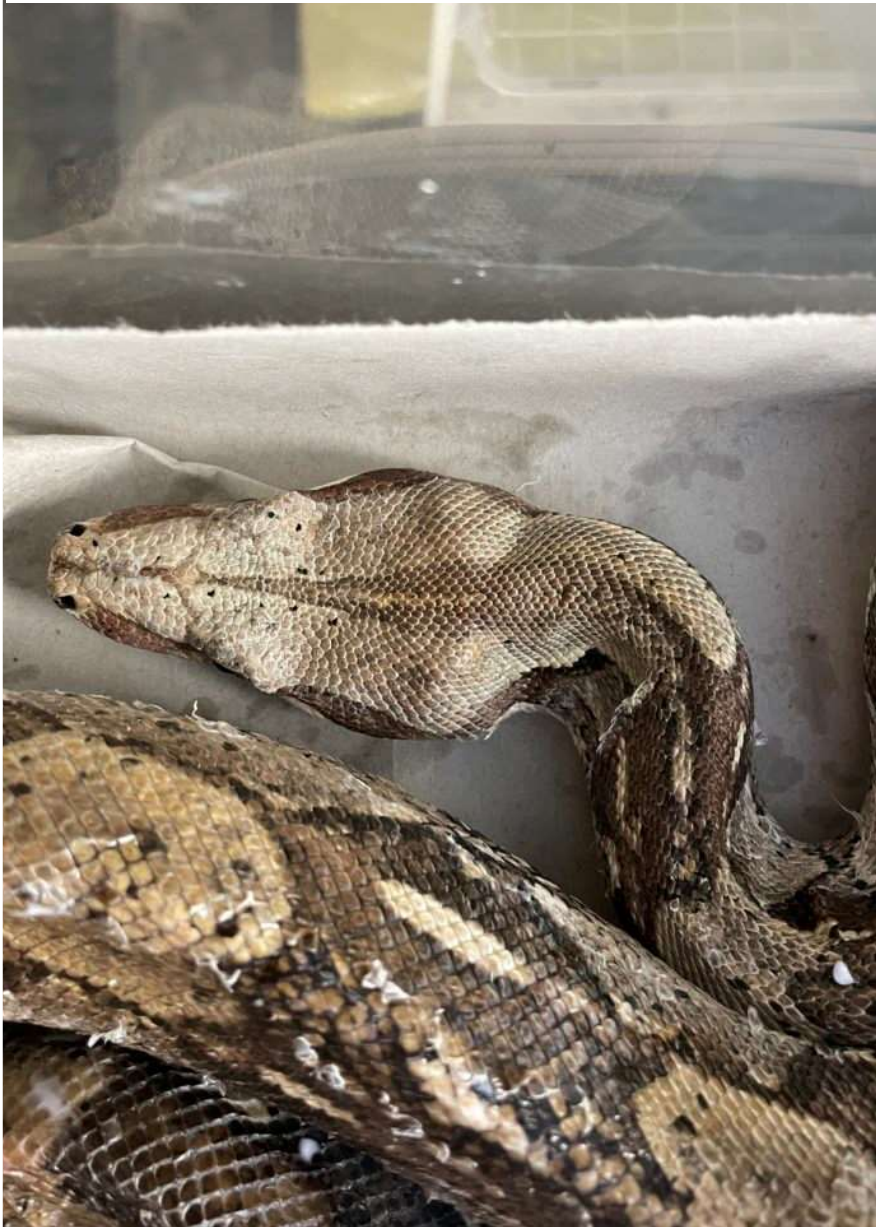
Heat



When to intervene: poor BCS or dehydration



When to intervene: poor BCS or dehydration



When to intervene: injuries



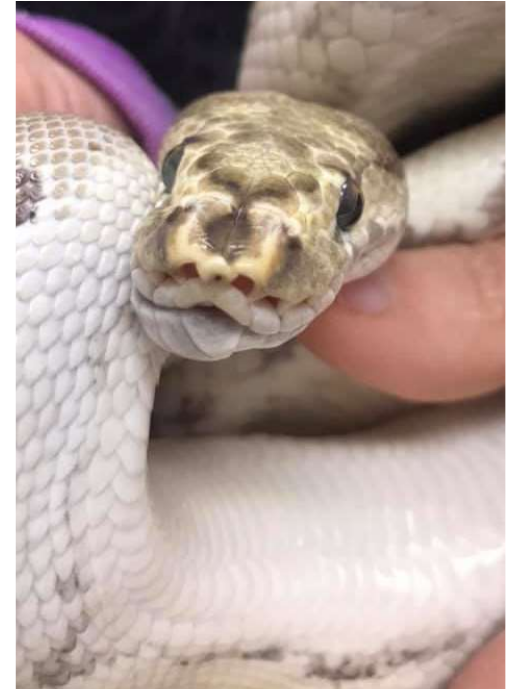
SCARS - healed



When to intervene: eye infections



When to intervene: mouth injury or infection



When to intervene: retained shed



When to intervene: retained shed



When to intervene: lumps and bumps



When to intervene: lumps and bumps



When to intervene: LIVE FOOD



When to intervene

- Other illness
 - Skin dz
 - Mites
 - Respiratory dz
 - Mouth rot
 - Eyes
 - Spinal deformities



Signs of good health:

- Shiny bright skin
- Clear open nostrils
- Bright clean eyes
- No wrinkles
- No lumps, bumps,
or asymmetry



Snake body language

- **Eye contact:** assume the worst unless you know the individual very well
 - direct eye contact means I'm gonna try to eat you or I'm ready to defend myself
- **Body Posture:** very important!!
 - Puffed up and trying to be large, elevated off the ground, or relaxed, small and trying to hide
- **Tongue flick:** tasting the air
 - Awake and interested but not scared

Size Matters

- **One person for every 6' of snake**
- Giving injections
- Exam
- Moving from one place to another
- Snake handling tools and techniques are much more important with the giants. Do not attempt to handle a giant without another person there to help you.

Safe Capture and Handling

- **Hook training:** use something to touch the snake before reaching in.
- **Hides:** snakes prefer to hide. Simply offer a hide and most will use it.
- **Restraint:** Support the head with your tool and then pick up by the tail. You can restrain a snake by holding behind the head if you must but know that doing so will cause the animal to lose trust in you.

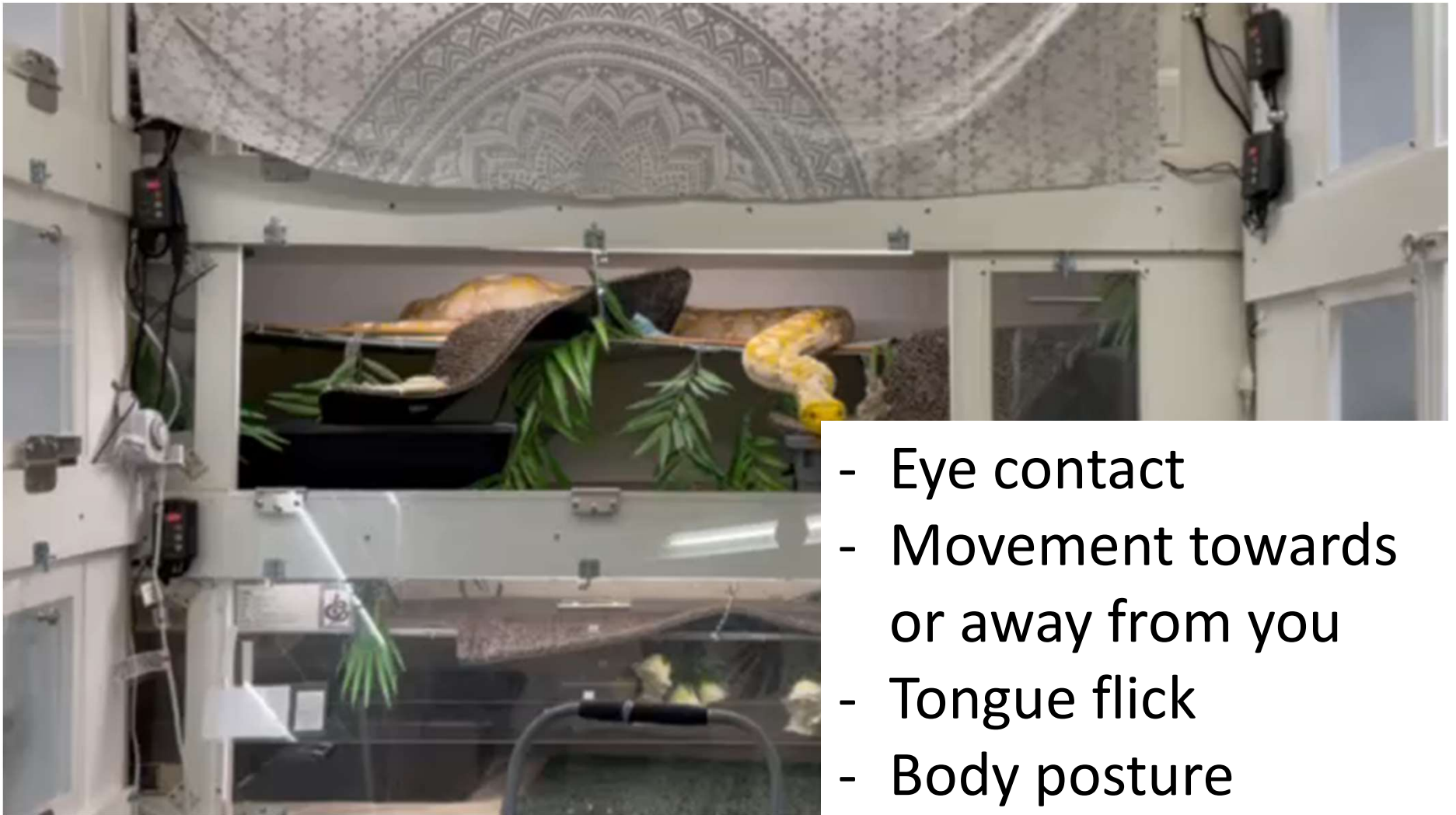


Safe Capture and Handling

- **Snake Bites:** no big deal!



Body language



- Eye contact
- Movement towards or away from you
- Tongue flick
- Body posture

Body language

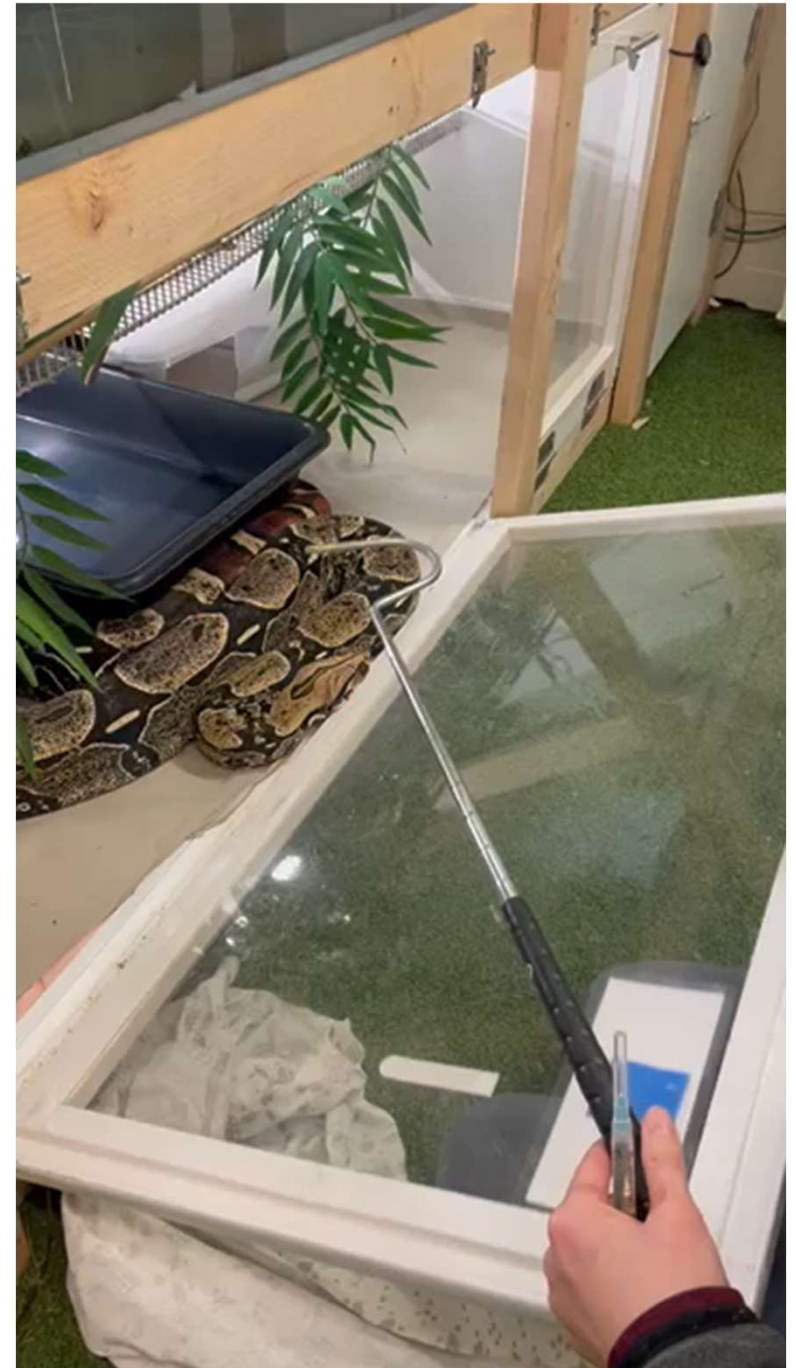


- Eye contact
- Movement towards or away from you
- Tongue flick
- Body posture

Hook

A communication tool:

- Break the food drive: smell and heat signature
- Applied behavioral pressures: elicit a desired response and reward
- Redirection = steering rather than forced movement



Hides

Positive thigmotaxis

- security blanket for the animal
- Reward for redirection w/ hook
- Elicits cooperation from the animal
- Vital for moving giants around
- Feeding bin – CAUTION – not the same thing!



Gloves

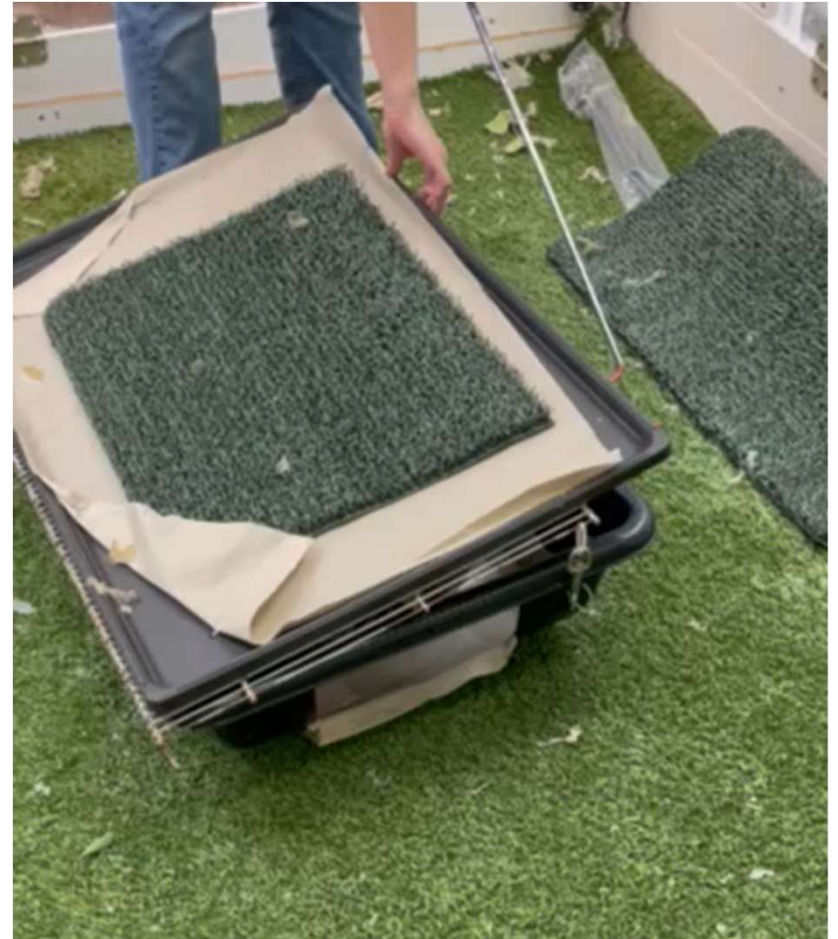


Towel



Transportation tub

- Go slow, be polite, say hello
- Give them a chance to look around
- Ask them to cooperate



- Eye contact
- Movement towards or away from you
- Tongue flick
- Body posture

Transportation and Housing

- **Heat:** heating pad (pet or human) that stays on – place under half the enclosure
- **Water:** a small Tupperware is good enough to drink out of
- **Contained:** simple plastic storage tub with duct tape to secure lids
- **Clean:** large enough enclosure that they can move away from excrement
- **Hides:** a cereal box, cracker box, or small Tupperware lined with paper - dark
- **Substrate:** news paper, craft paper, puppy pad, paper towel – absorbent
- **Food:** do NOT feed unless the above needs are met first for 48 hours – can go weeks without food

Ground Rules

- **Follow safe handling guidelines**
 - Extra person for every 6' of snake
 - Use a hook always before reaching into an enclosure or holding bin.
 - Do NOT crowd the animal: 6 foot strike range on a giant
 - Stay away from the head:
 - Do not pet the head
 - Do not stand directly in front of the head
 - Approach from below if in sight of the animal
 - Give the animal an out – a path to move away from you





A Retirement Home for Snakes
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Little Lives Small Animal Rescue

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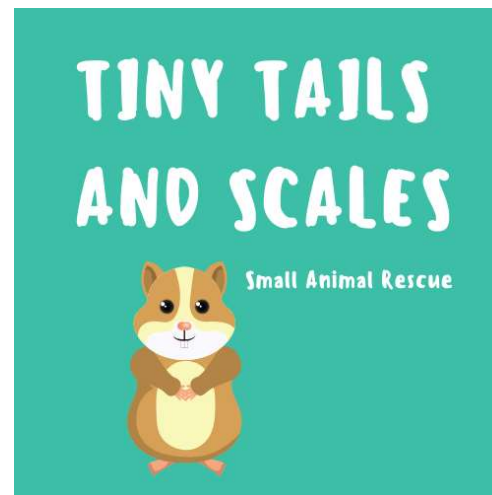
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