

Guide Dogs.

The official newsletter for Guide Dogs SA/NT Autumn 2022

PawPrints



Message from the CEO, Aaron Chia

Thank you
for supporting
Guide Dogs



CEO Aaron Chia
with puppy-in-
training, Royal.

I'm pleased to welcome you to our autumn edition of Paw Prints and proud to share many recent successes that were made possible thanks to your kindness.

I was humbled to meet many of our long-term supporters at our recent Puppy Graduation event at Adelaide Oval. It's always such a special day on the Guide Dogs calendar, and this year's event was no exception.

Guests celebrated the graduation of our Q and R Litter dogs; Queenie, Quincy,

Quisky, Qutie, Raven, Rayne, Remi, Ringer, Rocket, Royal and Rua. Read more about what these very special dogs are doing now on **page 12**.

Our newest puppies-in-training - the adorable S, T and U Litter puppies – were a crowd highlight, and a reminder of how the ongoing support of our generous Puppy Sponsors enables us to transform these tiny puppies into fully qualified Guide Dogs, Assistance Dogs and Facility Dogs. Meet Sage, Seymour, Shadow, Storm, Tally, Tanner, Tessie, Topaz, Texas, Tag, Uki and Urban on **page 4**.

I hope you will enjoy reading about one of our young clients, Martha. Martha is six years old and lives on the Eyre Peninsula. Born with Septo-Optic Dysplasia, Martha is completely blind.

Unlike the majority of people living with vision loss, Martha has no light perception at all. Despite this, Martha hasn't let vision loss stand in her way. She recently started her second year of primary school and, thanks to your support, is absolutely thriving. Read more on **page 6**.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the founder and inaugural President of Guide Dogs SA/NT, Frank Beauchamp, in December. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Frank's family and loved ones. Learn about the wonderful legacy Frank leaves on **page 8**.

In this edition we introduce you to Bruce Ind, who has been a Guide Dogs client since 2003. He is also former Deputy Chair of the Guide Dogs SA/NT Board. Bruce recently welcomed his third Guide Dog, new graduate Oakland, giving his beloved Wallace a well-deserved rest. Read more on **page 10**.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading about Margaret, a very special supporter. A long-term client of Guide Dogs, Margaret received her first white cane in 1972. Margaret has been an avid supporter of Guide Dogs for many years as a Puppy Sponsor and says

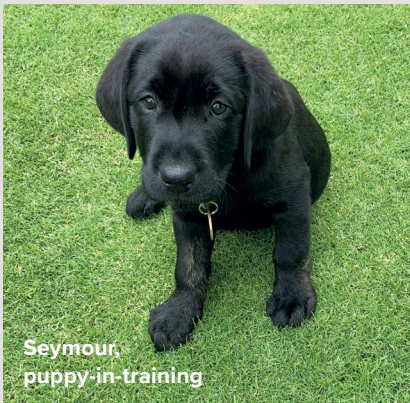
"I first used a white cane fifty years ago. Years later, I welcomed Guide Dogs Ives, then Vigo, and now I'm back to using my cane. My real passion though is supporting puppies to become Assistance Dogs. They make such a difference to the children who need them, and their families."

Thank you again for all you do to help people in our community achieve independence, participation, inclusion and wellbeing.



Aaron Chia
Chief Executive Officer,
Guide Dogs SA/NT

Inside this issue

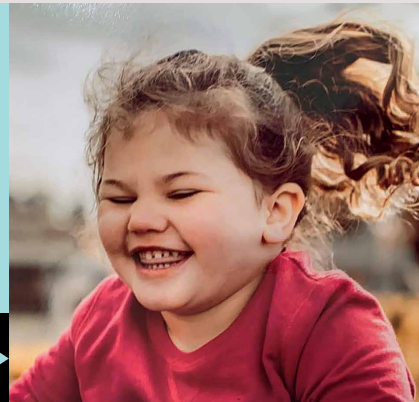


Meet our adorable new puppies!

Our newest litter of puppies-in-training are raring to go! Find out more about the S, T and U Litters on **page 4**.

Meet Martha

Learn how six-year-old Martha has thrived in her first year of primary school, thanks to the generosity of people like you. Find out more on **page 6**.



Vale Frank Beauchamp

On **page 8**, We pay our respects to the founder and inaugural President of Guide Dogs SA/NT, who sadly passed away on 29 December 2021.

Meet the STU Litter puppies!



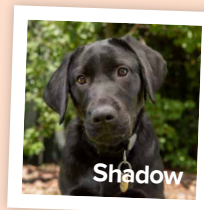
Urban, puppy-in-training

We're so excited to introduce you to our latest litter of adorable puppies-in-training! The S, T & U Litter consists of Sage, Shadow, Seymour, Storm, Tag, Tally, Tanner, Tessie, Texas, Topaz, Uki and Urban.

The puppies were born at Guide Dogs organisations across Australia, with whom we share the same focus; to help change the lives of people in our communities. Their life-changing journey to become Guide Dogs, Assistance Dogs or Facility Dogs is only possible thanks to generous supporters like you!



Date of birth: **19/9/2021**
Place of birth: **NSW** Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Jibu** Dad: **Damon**
Gender: **2 Boys & 2 Girls**



Shadow

Hi there, the hoomans call me Shadow! I am a **curious** girl, full of beans and a **lover of life**. My favourite thing is belly rubs from anyone and everyone.



Sage

Woof, my name is Sage, the three words that sum me up are **confident, curious and cuddly**. I am tail over paws to be on this incredible journey.



Storm

Woof, woof, my name is Storm, I am a **laid-back** boy who loves nothing more than a **big cuddle**. I also love meeting new friends and playing chasey.



Seymour

Hi friends, Seymour here! I am an **adventurous and curious** boy who loves zoomies around the garden and following my Puppy Raisers around.

INTRODUCING THE
T
LITTER

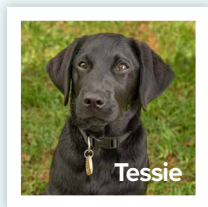


Hi, the name's Tanner, I am a **confident and cuddly** boy who enjoys spending time sleeping in the sun and **playing with my friends**. I'm excited to one day help someone in need.



Hello! My name is Tally, I am an alert girl who **LOVES naps** under the couch and getting up to **mischief!** I can't wait to see what my journey holds.

Date of birth: **3/10/2021**
Place of birth: **Victoria**
Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Imogen** Dad: **Lachie**
Gender: **1 Boy & 1 Girl**



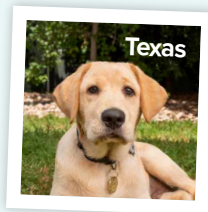
Hi friends, my name is Tessie! I am very **enthusiastic** and a bit of a **smarty pants!** I love to chat and run around like I own the place, woof!

Date of birth: **1/10/2021**
Place of birth: **NSW**
Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Sass** Dad: **Victor**
Gender: **Girl**



Hi, my name is Topaz, I am so excited to be on this training journey. I am very **curious** about life and love to **explore** everything. I also love a good long nap!

Date of birth: **26/9/2021**
Place of birth: **NSW**
Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Jackie**
Dad: **Moka du Cesecah**
Gender: **Girl**



Hi y'all, I am Texas! Yes, like the state! I love to **go all out** with everything I do. I am a **happy go lucky** boy who loves to play with all my toys. Bring on the training, woof!



Hello, Tag here! I am a **cheeky** boy who loves cuddles, playing with my toys, and **having fun in the backyard**. Thank you for your suppawt, woof!

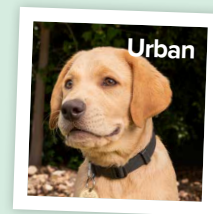
Date of birth: **8/10/2021**
Place of birth: **Victoria**
Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Ella** Dad: **Juddy**
Gender: **2 Boys**

INTRODUCING THE
U
LITTER

Date of birth: **27/10/2021**
Place of birth: **Victoria**
Breed: **Labrador**
Mum: **Lynney**
Dad: **Viking**
Gender: **1 Boy & 1 Girl**



Hi Uki here. I am a sweet and **confident girl** who loves **big naps** and playing in my shell pool! I love water and exploring my big garden with my puppy raisers!



Hi, it's Urban here! I am an **inquisitive and cuddly** boy who loves to follow my Puppy Raiser around. I'm a **quick learner** who is keen to learn! I have a big fur brother Archie who has been showing me the ropes in my new home!

The S, T and U Litter puppies rely on our Puppy Sponsors to support them on their journeys to becoming qualified working dogs. Are you interested in learning more about giving a regular gift to Guide Dogs as a Puppy Sponsor?

Call **08 8115 6060** or visit sant.guidedogs.com.au/puppy-sponsorship

Your support changes lives

Six year-old Martha is a happy little girl. Like most children her age she loves to play with LEGO, bounce on her trampoline and spend time at the beach. When Martha was just two weeks old her parents were given some very worrying news.



Martha and her mum, Gemma.

Their little baby had Septo-Optic Dysplasia, a rare brain disorder where the optic nerve fails to develop properly in-utero. There is no cure, and many people with this diagnosis will experience severe vision loss for their whole lives. Martha is completely blind. Unlike the majority of people living with vision loss, Martha doesn't have any light perception at all.

The first years of a child's life are full of change, wonder and potential. For children with vision loss, this time of growth is no different – but it may take longer for them to reach developmental milestones compared to children with sight. Living with low vision or blindness affects a child's understanding of the world, hindering their motivation to move around or explore.

Thanks to your support, we are able to provide specialist support to children like Martha and their families, helping them to develop alternatives for interacting with their environment.

Because of the generosity of our kind supporters, Martha and her family continue to thrive.

“The team at Guide Dogs has been part of our lives since she was tiny,”
says Martha's mum, Gemma.

“Guide Dogs Orientation & Mobility Specialists have taught Martha so much. By the time she was four, she had already learnt how to explore and move around safely with a white cane. The team helped us realise that everything would be fine. Martha would be able to do almost everything that other kids can do – we just needed to find a different way to go about some of them.”

Martha was diagnosed with Septo-Optic Dysplasia.



“Guide Dogs has taught Martha so much. By the time she was four, she had already learnt how to explore and move around safely with a white cane.”



The support has also helped Martha to be resilient. The team are kind, patient and supportive but there’s no attitude of ‘poor little Martha, she can’t see,’ which, sadly, still happens sometimes when we’re out and about.

Martha has recently begun her second year of primary school and thanks to the generous support of people like you, she is thriving.

It’s always a pleasure to watch children like Martha develop their skills. Before Martha started school, the Guide Dogs team spent time helping her to move around safely and independently. This involved experiences such as playing at the park to explore different ways of moving, like playing on swings or jumping on a trampoline.

In 2021, the team focused on supported Martha in her first year at school, ensuring she could move around independently, join in with classroom activities and help her engage with her classmates.

Martha learnt skills such as turning her head to face the person she’s talking to. And her classmates and teachers were supported to start conversations by letting Martha know who is speaking and ensure that she can join in. It might

be something as simple as helping conversations flow during recess.

For a blind child, so much of what’s going on can be missed unless people around them help them understand. So for example, we’ll encourage Martha’s friends to tell her what’s going on. It might be something simple like ‘Hey Martha – I’m eating a bag of popcorn today. What’s in your lunchbox?’ to ensure Martha knows what’s going on around her.

Martha was also supported to find her way around school, for example, by putting small pieces of velcro on her classroom door so she could feel her way into the right room.

Whilst Martha felt most comfortable holding hands with an adult at the beginning of the school year, it didn’t take long for her to move around much more independently, using her long cane to explore her world safely.

“Without Guide Dogs, I have no idea what our lives might be like,” said Gemma. “They’ve helped change everything for us. They have helped Martha to live and experience life. They’ve not just taught Martha, but they’ve taught us. We are so very grateful for everything.”



Will you give a gift today to help children like Martha?

Please donate today and help children like Martha to live their best lives.

Vale, Frank Beauchamp



Founder and inaugural President of Guide Dogs SA/NT, Frank Beauchamp, sadly passed away on 29 December 2021, aged 89.

Francis Todd 'Frank' Beauchamp was the originator of the Guide Dog movement in South Australia and the Northern Territory. In 1957, Frank and the APEX Club of Adelaide launched the Guide Dogs Association of South Australia, the first organisation of its kind in the state. It was Frank's vision to ensure that there would be a life-changing Guide Dog available to everyone who needed one.

Thanks to Frank and his contemporaries, Guide Dogs SA/NT now has a long and exemplary history of training and partnering Guide Dogs with those who need them. Today, over 60 years later, we continue to service Frank's vision to empower people living with low vision, blindness and specialised support needs and their families to achieve independence, participation, inclusion and wellbeing.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife, Judith. He was a much-loved father and father-in-law to Angela and Bill, James and Wendy, Andrew and Lisa and Dave and Pam. He will be remembered by his 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Frank's incredible legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives have been forever changed by his work.



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Good things come in threes



Bruce with Guide Dogs, Wallace and Oakland

Bruce Ind has been part of the Guide Dogs SA/NT family since 2003. A Guide Dogs client, Bruce is also former Deputy Chair of the Guide Dogs SA/NT Board, former Chair of the Client Advisory Committee and a passionate advocate for people living with low vision or blindness.

And he's testimony to the saying 'good things come in threes', as Guide Dogs SA/NT Client and Handler Bruce recently welcomed his third Guide Dog, Oakland.

Guide Dog, Wallace, is putting his paws up for a well-deserved rest and retiring after proudly handing over the harness to new Guide Dog graduate, Oakland.

Bruce lives with Stargardt disease which has resulted in a deterioration in his sight over the years. After retiring, he began walking more frequently, prompting his family to suggest he look into getting his first Guide Dog, Keeley, in October 2005.

"The first time I went out with Keeley I realised that there was a learning curve, I had to show clearly that I trusted her and give her a chance to trust me," Bruce said.

"It was the same with Wallace and now with Oakland. You can't grab hold of the harness and walk off into the sunset, you need to develop some sort of trust.

"I'm a reasonably confident person but the confidence that I had when I was working with a Guide Dog increased.

"My wife continually says that when we go for a walk – particularly the two of us with me working the Guide Dog – invariably, people walking towards us will look at the dog, then look at me and at my face, then look back at the dog and smile. It's that immediate."

Bruce said he and his wife are enjoying getting to know Oakland and watching how the two get along.

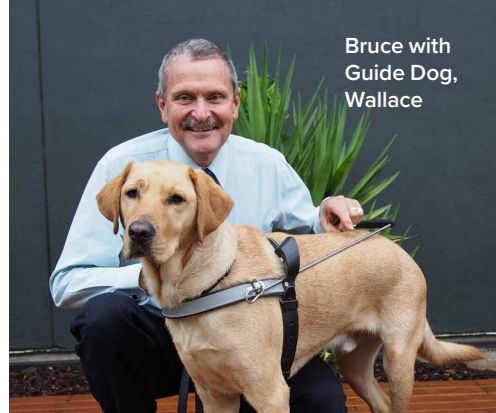
"Wallace and Oakland are getting on very well," he said.

"You tend to anthropomorphise and put human emotions and human characteristics onto your dog. When Keeley was coming up to retirement and then as Wallace was coming up to retirement, you are concerned about how they're going to feel and how they will respond to a new dog coming into the pack.

"Of course, the trainers at Guide Dogs see this many times and they know that as long as they're fed, looked after and getting attention, then it's okay.

"Wallace is much more reserved than Oakland. While he is very happy most of the time, he doesn't wag his tail. Oakland has got a lovely wagging tail which is really excellent.

"However, when you sing 'Happy Birthday', Wallace will jump around...so he's got that. He also doesn't tend to like being patted much but Oakland does."



Bruce with
Guide Dog,
Wallace

"It was the same with Wallace and now with Oakland. You can't grab hold of the harness and walk off into the sunset, you need to develop some sort of trust."



Oakland as a young pup

Donate today to help us breed, raise and train more Guide Dog puppies to follow in Oakland's paws. Call **08 8115 6060** or visit **sant.guidedogs.com.au**

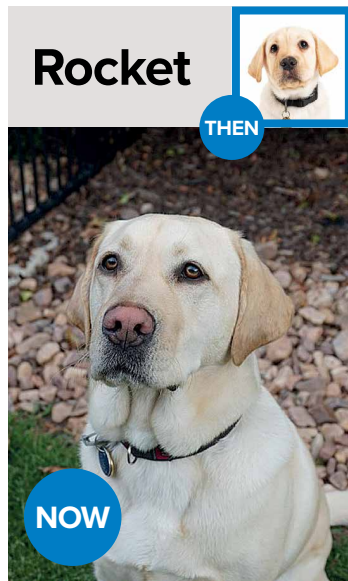
Q&R Litter Puppies

Where are they now?

We were thrilled to celebrate the Graduation of members of the Q&R Litter at Adelaide Oval last month.

Puppy sponsors, corporate supporters, major donors and board members joined us to hear how well Queenie, Quincy, Quisky, Cutie, Raven, Rayne, Remi, Ringer, Rocket, Royal and Rua have done since starting training two and a half years ago.

“Graduation is such a special date on the Guide Dogs calendar,” said Aaron Chia, Chief Executive Officer, Guide Dogs SA/NT. “There can be no higher calling for a dog than to enable freedom, independence and inclusion for a person living with disability. Our Graduation event brings the Guide Dogs community together as we celebrate the diverse ways our working dogs make a positive impact to so many people’s lives.”



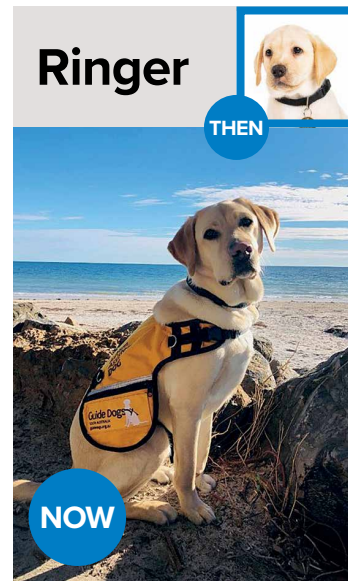
Guide Dog

Our first graduate Rocket graduated as a qualified Guide Dog. After impressing with his willingness to train, Rocket has graduated as a qualified Guide Dog. He will be moving into his new handler’s home and beginning his working life in the coming weeks and we look forward to hearing how their relationship goes from strength to strength.



Guide Dog

Ever since he was a puppy, Royal has been up for whatever challenge has come his way. A real outdoorsy-type, Royal has loved spending time supervising his Puppy Raisers in the garden and racing around the local park. Royal has now officially graduated onto further formal training to become a Guide Dog. Our team will now work to carefully match Royal with a client and continue to support them as they begin their partnership.

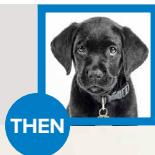


Assistance Dog

Ever since he was a tiny puppy Ringer has always been keen to help and motivated to learn new skills. Ringer gets along well with humans and other dogs alike, carrying with him a sense of calm and ease. Ringer has proudly graduated as an Assistance Dog for 17 year-old Billy. Billy has Autism and faces many challenges every day. With Ringer by his side, Billy is able to live more independently. Billy and his family can now enjoy going for a walk to the local café, safely crossing roads. Ringer has been a blessing in teaching Billy many skills and reducing his anxiety.

Your regular gift to Guide Dogs can help us transform adorable puppies into highly skilled Guide Dogs, Assistance Dogs or Facility Dogs.

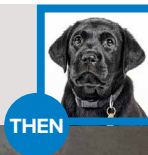
Remi



Rayne



Rua



Brood

Remi has always made friends everywhere she goes! There are very few things she fails to get excited about. Despite her high energy levels, Remi also wants to make those around her happy and thrived during her training. As well as being the caring type, Remi is a go-getter and is willing to embrace any challenge.

For this reason, Remi has chosen to take on the hardest career of all: motherhood.

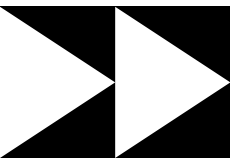
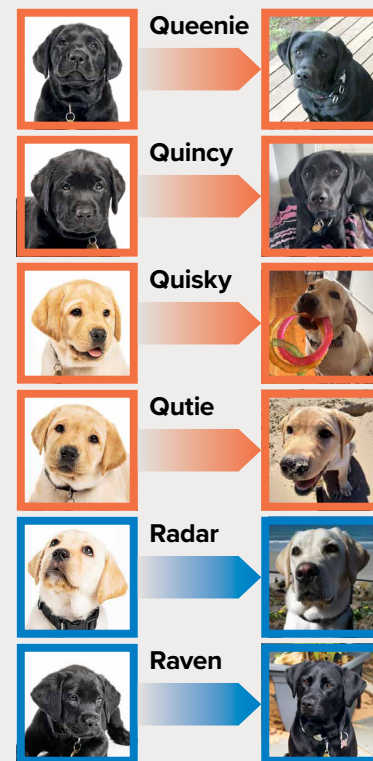
We congratulate Remi on her graduation as a Brood and look forward to taking care of her pups in the future.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Support Dogs

Rayne has always been the caring type, as evidenced by her love for fluffy toys. Whether she is sleeping on them, carrying them, eating them or playing with them, Rayne always has a furry toy to look after. Rayne loves people and is very affectionate, making her happy to learn new skills in order to please her trainers. Like her sister, Rua was born a natural carer. Always there to keep a watchful eye over her siblings, Rua was a little mother to the other puppies in her litter making sure everyone was behaving themselves. These qualities are what made a careers as a PTSD Support Dogs the obvious choice for both of these incredible dogs. This vocation has taken Rayne and Rua interstate where they were sold to an organisation and trained to support people who are living with PTSD to live with confidence knowing they have a trusted companion by their side.

Queenie, Quincy, Quisky, Qutie, Radar and Raven

It's important to acknowledge that not every puppy will ultimately be suited for the responsibility of being a Guide Dog or Assistance Dog. Radar, Raven, Quisky, Queenie, Qutie and Quincy decided the working life isn't for them and are now enjoying lives of leisure, providing companionship as much-loved family pets.



Become a Puppy Sponsor today!

Call **08 8115 6060** or visit sant.guidedogs.com.au/puppy-sponsorship

Celebrating 50 years

2022 marks 50 years since Margaret Williams joined the Guide Dogs family.

“I had problems with my sight since I was a little girl,” says Margaret. “I’m totally blind in my left eye and have 5 percent vision in the right.”

Margaret was first supported by the team at Guide Dogs in 1972, receiving Orientation and Mobility training to enable her to move around safely and independently. “I was very nervous to start with,” recalls Margaret. “In fact, I was dangerous! The police once stopped me crossing the road without my white cane. I had to admit I’d left it in my handbag.”

“I knew then it was time to take things seriously. Guide Dogs helped me learn to use my cane and I began catching buses from my home in the southern suburbs into the city.”

I had no confidence at all to start with, but before long I was travelling to and from work and going out to restaurants in the evenings.”

Margaret met her husband, Bob, and enjoyed a diverse working life; first in a childcare centre, then as a nanny, and finally in aged and palliative care.

Margaret was matched with her first Guide Dog, Ives, in 2005. “Ives was the most

beautiful boy,” says Margaret. “He was a real character and gave 100 percent every single day, never missing a beat.”

Ives stayed by Margaret’s side after retiring from working life, providing companionship to Margaret and Bob and enjoying a well-deserved rest.

In 2013, Margaret was matched with her second Guide Dog, Vigo. “Vigo and Ives got along instantly. They were best of friends, no trouble at all. Vigo was such a loyal, sensitive dog. He was by my side every minute of the day. He’d even sit patiently on the bath mat whilst I showered.”

After Vigo sadly passed away, Margaret made the decision to return to using her long cane. “I’d used it for 24 years before Ives and Vigo, so it was an easy transition.”

Margaret spent many years as a valued Guide Dogs volunteer and today celebrates 15 years as a Guide Dogs Puppy Sponsor, giving a regular gift to the organisation to breed, raise and train the next generation of working dogs to follow in Ives’ and Vigo’s paw prints.

“I understand how valuable Guide Dogs are for people like me” says Margaret. “But my real passion is supporting the Assistance Dogs program. Knowing my contribution helps train puppies that will go on to supporting children with autism is very rewarding. These are such special dogs that make a real difference.”



“My real passion is supporting the Assistance Dogs program. Knowing my contribution helps train puppies that will go on to supporting children with autism is very rewarding. These are such special dogs that make a real difference.”



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Fargo, puppy-in-training

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