Love At First Paw

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Github Repository

1 Overview

Adopting a pet can be time-consuming and difficult due to the overwhelming number of choices. The difficulty is also felt within Shelters, as they also struggle to effectively connect animals with suitable adopters. This is what sparked our idea, the concept of "Tinder but for pet adoption" was created to make the process more efficient and enjoyable while promoting animal welfare.

Our web app, known as Love At First Paw, makes adopting pets easy and fun by matching people to pets from nearby shelters based on their personality and lifestyle. Through a quick quiz, the app narrows down options, helping users find the perfect pet while showcasing shelter animals to a broader audience.

These personalized matches ensure better compatibility, and the easy quiz allows you to spend less time searching for your Fur-ever friend.

Many types of people would benefit from this web app. However, the main groups would be first-time adopters, busy professionals, and helpful community members. Listed below are some example personas for these three groups:

- Terry and Lisa just moved into their first home and are looking for a pet, they're first-time adopters. They don't have any experience adopting pets and could use some guidance. Our Web app would provide this guidance through the use of our quiz and the supplied shelter info. Now Terry and Lisa can make the best informed decision possible.

- Gregory is a busy professional. He doesn't have the time to go looking through multiple different shelters to try and find a pet that fits his hectic lifestyle. He needs quick results. Our web app can provide those quick results by displaying the most relevant and nearby shelters, along with their available pets, in one handy web page.

- Bertha is an old animal lover who adores helping at shelters and fostering new pets. However, she can't always remember what shelters she's able to help out. Our web app would allow Bertha to spend less time looking for shelters and more time doing what she loves.

2 Features

Our web app needs to be quick and effective. Therefore, we need to use the best of the best APIs to accomplish this task. That's why our team has decided upon the following 4 APIs:

- Petfinder
  - A powerful database API with information on shelters and their pets.
- OpenStreetMap
  - A free Google Maps alternative that can be used to display an interactive map, get directions, and more.
- RescueGroups
  - Another powerful database API with information on shelters and their pets.
- OneSignal
  - A messaging API that can be used to send emails, reminders, and more.

The features that we plan to incorporate into our web app rely heavily on these APIs. As such, we have found three features for each of the listed APIs. The first two APIs that are listed are our group's primary choices:

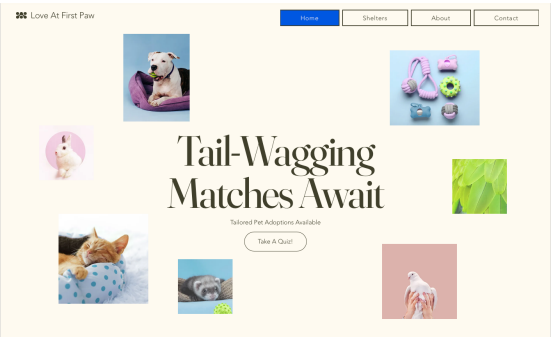
- Petfinder
  - A feature that allows the user to search for pets based on certain characteristics such as breed, type, age, color, and more. As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa would use this to search for pets based on characteristics they like so that they can easily find a pet that matches their preferences.
  - A feature that allows the user to search for shelters based on name, location, and more. As a busy professional, Gregory wants to search for shelters by name and location, so that he can quickly find the nearest adoption centre without spending too much of his time.
  - A feature that allows the user to take a quiz, and will format the results into a request to the API to match the user to pets that match the results. Terry and Lisa would use this feature to try and find a pet that matches their lifestyle in their new house.
- OpenStreetMap
  - A feature that adds an interactive map that displays the location of nearby shelters. Terry and Lisa would use this feature to look for shelters that are close to them, as they're unfamiliar with the area.

  - A feature that pinpoints a pet's or shelter's location when you select that pet or shelter. Gregory would love to be able to know exactly where he's going so that he can plan his day effectively; this feature would be a great help to him.
  - A feature that path finds the chosen shelter so the user knows where to go. Terry and Lisa, having just moved to the area, would greatly appreciate having step-by-step directions on how to reach their chosen shelter.

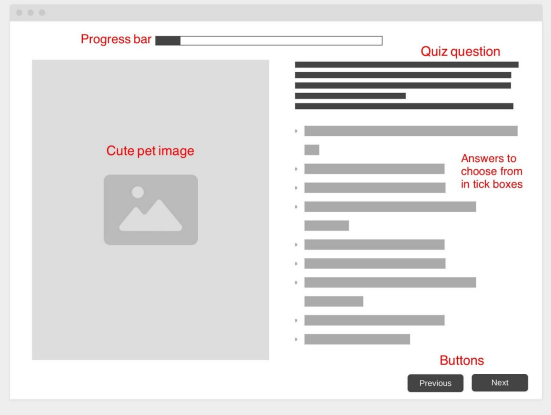
- RescueGroups
  - This API is a backup API for Petfinder and, as such, will have the same features if implemented

- OneSignal
  - A feature that allows the user to sign up for notifications about certain shelters and/or pets. As a busy professional, Gregory doesn't always have the time to check the adoption listings. He would sign up for notifications that let him know if his chosen shelters have any new pets.
  - A feature that allows the user to receive a list of ways to volunteer at shelters, in case they want to help. Bertha would jump at the chance to know of any shelters in her area that need her help. This would be her favourite feature.
  - A feature that allows users to receive pet-care tips and other information regarding their chosen pet. As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa have almost no knowledge of how to care for pets. They would immediately ask to receive pet-care tips so they can be better first-time pet owners.

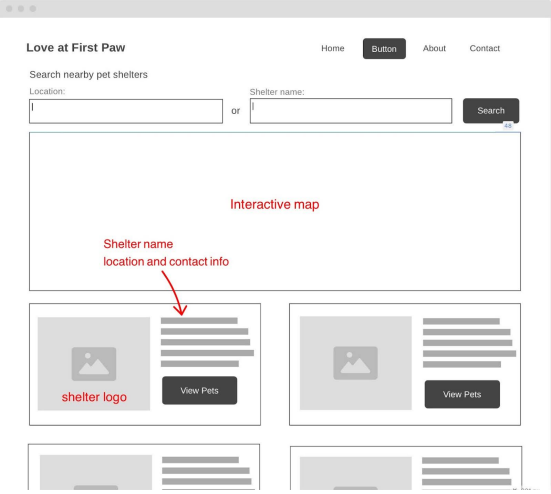
3 Storyboard and Wireframe



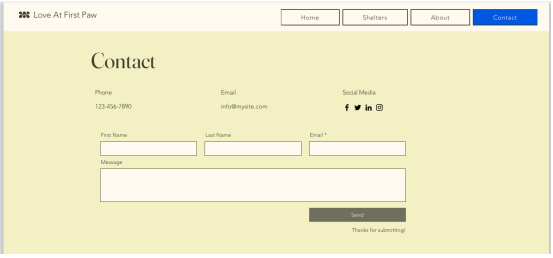
(a) Home / Landing Page



(b) Quiz to Match with pets



(c) Shelter Search and Interactive Map



(d) Contact Page

4 Technology Stack

For Love At First Paw, we decided to go with Next.js as our front-end framework, due to having the flexibility of React with additional features such as server-side rendering, static site generation, and API routing. These features allow us to focus more on the user experience while ensuring a fast site. As no back-end is needed for our site, Github Pages will be used for hosting, pairing well with Next.js's static site generation. This lets us deploy with minimal effort and no additional costs, allowing us to put more time towards the user experience. To make the site visually pleasing, we decided to use a combination of Tailwind CSS and ShadCN UI, as Tailwind will provide utility-first styling to keep our code clean and scalable while ShadCN UI gives us access to easy-to-implement UI components with polish.