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.

2 Personas

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 & Lisa, first-time adopters:

- Ages: 30 / 28
- Educations: Bachelors in Computer Science / Bachelors in Business
- Situation: Recently moved into their first home and are facing the challenges of a new living space. They're looking to adopt a pet to make their house feel more like a home.
- Terry Characteristics: Tech-savvy and is optimistic about starting a new chapter of his life.
- Lisa Characteristics: Outgoing, caring, creative, and enthusiastic- yet inexperienced with the pet adoption process.
- Challenge: Limited experience with pet adoption, unsure about matching their new lifestyle to the right pet. They're overwhelmed by the variety of pet options and unsure about the responsibilities of pet care.
- Goals: Find a loyal companion to fit their lifestyle and become confident first time owners.

Gregory, a busy professional:

- Age: 35
- Education: Masters in business administration
- Situation: A busy professional juggling a demanding career and has limited free time, has to travel often and needs efficiency in every proponent in life.
- Characteristics: Efficient, result-oriented, and pragmatic.
- Challenges: Struggles to invest time researching pet adoption and finding a shelter that fits his schedule.
- Goals: Quickly locate a nearby shelter and pet to suit his lifestyle while staying updated on new listings without interrupting his busy day.

Bertha, a helpful community member:

- Age: 68
- Education: High school Diploma

- Situation: Retired and deeply committed to animal welfare, as Bertha spends her time volunteering at shelters.
- Characteristics: Compassionate, patient, and experienced in animal care, strong sense of community.
- Challenges: Often finds it difficult to remember details about multiple shelters and sometimes encounters technology hurdles.
- Goals: Remain connected with shelters, receive volunteer opportunities, and use her experience to make a positive impact on animal lives.

3 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:

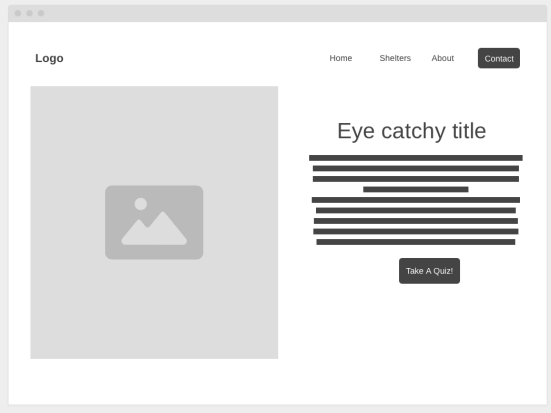
- Petfinder
  - A powerful database API with information on shelters and their pets.
- OpenStreetMap
  - A free Google Maps alternative that can be used to display an interactive map, get directions, and more.
- RescueGroups
  - Another powerful database API with information on shelters and their pets.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

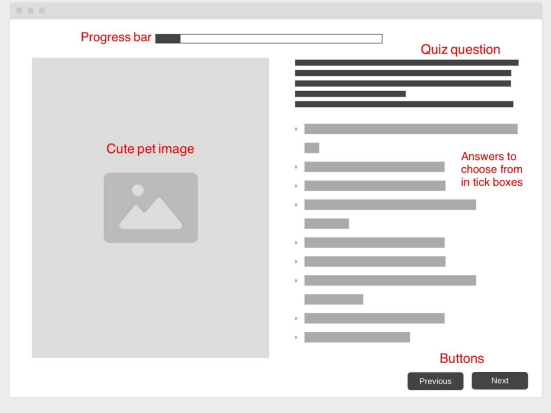
- Petfinder
  - 1. Search For Pets Based on Characteristics
    - Feature description: Users can search for pets using filters such as breed, age, and color.
    - User Story: As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa want to search for pets using different filters to facilitate their first adoption.
  - 2. Search for Shelters by Name and Location
    - Feature description: Allow users to quickly locate shelters by searching for name and/or distance
    - User Story: As a busy professional, Gregory wants to search for shelters by name and location, so that he can quickly find the nearest adoption centre that fits his schedule.
  - 3. Find pets based on quiz results
    - Feature description: Allows the user to take a quiz, that will match their results to pets that fit them the best
    - User Story: As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa want to find pets that match their characteristics so that they don't get the wrong pet for their lifestyle.

- OpenStreetMap
  - 1. Interactive map
    - Feature description: Adds an interactive map that displays the location of nearby shelters.
    - User Story: As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa want to know where nearby shelters on a map as they're unfamiliar with their new area.
  - 2. Show location of pet/shelter on map when selected
    - Feature description: Pinpoints a pet's or shelter's location when you select that pet or shelter.
    - User Story: As a busy professional, Gregory wants to have the location of his pet so that he can fit a trip into his schedule.
  - 3. Get a path to the shelter
    - Feature description: Gets directions to the chosen shelter so the user knows where to go.
    - User Story: As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa want to have step-by-step directions on how to reach their chosen shelter, as they're new to the area and don't know where to go.
- RescueGroups
  - This API is a backup API for Petfinder and, as such, will have the same features if implemented
- OneSignal
  - 1. Pet and shelter notifications
    - Feature description: Allows the user to sign up for notifications about certain shelters and/or pets.
    - User Story: As a busy professional, Gregory wants to receive updates regarding certain pets/shelters since he doesn't always have time to go out of his way to check.
  - 2. Shelter volunteer list
    - Feature description: Allows the user to receive a list of shelters in need of or wanting volunteers.
    - User Story: As a helpful community member, Bertha wants to know where she can volunteer so that she can help her community more effectively.
  - 3. Pet care email for chosen pet
    - Feature description: Allows users to receive pet-care tips and other information regarding their chosen pet.
    - User Story: As first-time adopters, Terry and Lisa want to know how to take care of their new pet so they can be better first-time pet owners.

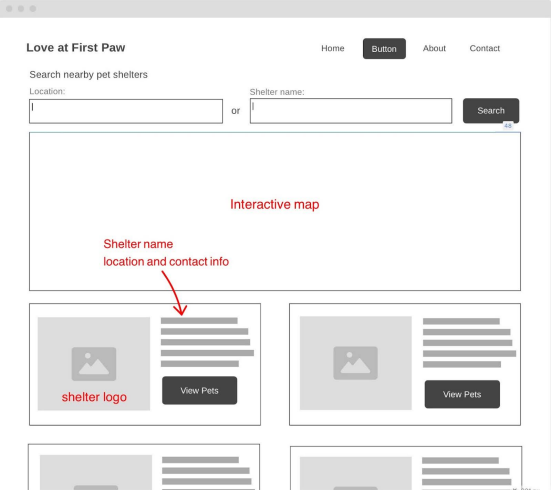
4 Storyboard and Wireframe



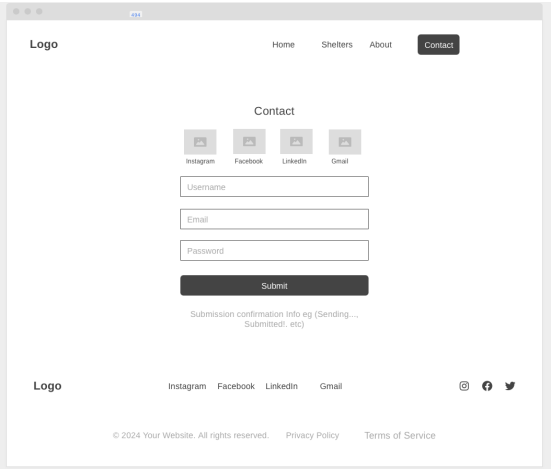
(a) Home / Landing Page



(b) Quiz to Match with pets



(c) Shelter Search and Interactive Map



(d) Contact Page

5 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.