|  | *Letter of Information for*  *Implied Consent* |
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**Smart Pet-Caring Detector System**

You are invited to participate in a study entitled **Smart Pet-Care Detector System** that is being conducted by Junhao Lin, Mengyang Zhang, Linyao Hou, Xinxin Wu, Daming Wang for the course SENG 310, Human-Computer Interaction. The course instructor is Dr. Sowmya Somanath, Department of Computer Science, [sowmyasomanath@uvic.ca](mailto:sowmyasomanath@uvic.ca), (+1) [250-472-5794](tel:250-472-5794)

As undergraduate students, we are required to conduct research as part of the requirements for a degree in Computer Science/Software Engineering. It is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. Sowmya Somanath, a Faculty Member in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Victoria. You may contact my supervisor at [250-472-5794](tel:250-472-5794)or [sowmyasomanath@uvic.ca](mailto:sowmyasomanath@uvic.ca).

**Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of this research project is to find the needs of the pet owners as well as to figure out what functionalities should be included in our system.

**Importance of this Research**

Research of this type is important because we need to know pet owners’ problems when keeping a pet. For example, you might be so busy with their studies or work that you do not have enough time and knowledge to take care of their pets, or you want to get more health information about their pets. By analyzing the research results, we can strengthen and improve the system’s functions and design the interface that people need to the greatest extent.

**Participants Selection**

* You have been selected to participate in this study because you meet the following requirements.
  + You are a pet owner.
  + Alternatively, you are planning to have a pet in the future.
  + You may encounter some problems to be solved with pets.
* Participation in this project is entirely voluntary.
* Whether you choose to participate or not will have no effect on your position [e.g. employment, class standing] or how you will be treated.
* Participants are 18 years or older and able to provide consent for themselves.

**What is involved**

If you consent to participate in this research voluntarily, your participation will include :

* **Interview**:
* Answer a series of questions about the problems you encounter when keeping a pet. Also, tell us about the functionalities that you would like to include in a pet care system.
* **Duration:** Approximately 20 minutes
* **Where:** the study room in the school library or online voice channel (discord).
* **Inconvenience:** *None beyond dedicating approximately 20 minutes to this study*
* **Photo/Video/Voice Elicitation**:
* You will capture daily life with your pets using videos. Firstly, show how you feed your pets and how to take care of them when you need to go out for work or study. Secondly, record how you check your pets’ health information, such as weight, temperature, etc. Lastly, show us the problems and worries you encounter when keeping pets. The videos only need to demonstrate the interaction with the prototype and **must not** capture any personally identifying information such as your face.
* **Duration:** Approximately 20 minutes
* **Sharing Instruction:**
  + You will upload your data to our google drive folder found here: <<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rl79lANgw1ywejiC91rLFgXFR8lgaMyB?usp=sharing> >
* **Inconvenience:** *None beyond dedicating approximately 20 minutes to this study*

Please be advised that information about you that is gathered for this research study uses an online program located in the U.S. (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Google Forms) or a program that can be accessed from the U.S. As such, there is a possibility that (non-identifiable) information about you may be accessed without your knowledge or consent by the U.S. government in compliance with the U.S. Freedom Act.

**Risks**

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research.

When participating in-person, participants must recognize that the level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may elevate from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level or within a workplace. Thus, we will follow UVic’s recommendations for managing risks and therefore require participants to conduct health self-assessment and notify us if you are not feeling well so the study can be cancelled or rescheduled. In addition, when participating in the study on campus we request participants to wash hands regularly or use hand sanitizers, and covering mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. More detailed suggestions for managing risks can be found in the UVic CD plan: <https://www.uvic.ca/ohse/assets/docs/rtc/uvic-communicable-disease-plan.pdf>

Participants will be advised if you have or may have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. Contact information for participants will be stored in a separate file from research data in the event that follow up is needed.

**Benefits**

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include helping us generate new design guidelines for people who create interfaces, and helping pet owners who are too busy to take care of their pets.

**Voluntary Participation**

Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time without any consequences or explanation. However, if you withdraw from the study, your data will be permanently erased and removed from all analyses by removing all documents associated with your identity.

**Anonymity**

In terms of protecting your anonymity, you will not provide identifiable information such as your name thus the data we collect is anonymous. If the photos and videos that you provide accidentally show your face, we will blur or cut it out of the frame during analysis and presentations.

**Confidentiality**

We will not store any identifiable information.

**Dissemination of Results**

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in-class presentations, coursework reports and will be documented on a website hosted on a local UVic server. In addition, if the research findings are of publishable quality, the students and the instructor can decide to use the results in a scientific, peer-reviewed publication.

**Disposal of Data**

* Within one month of the end of the course, students will delete the raw data and confirm their action by sending me an email acknowledging that you have indeed deleted all the raw data.
* The website and related data hosted on the UVic server will be deleted one month after the end of the course.

**Contacts**

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include the researchers and supervisors listed at the beginning of this document.

In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study or raise any concerns you might have by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

By completing and submitting the questionnaire, **YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED** and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

***Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference.***