

Team Nerdvana

Senior Project Expanded Proposal

Dog/Pet Sitting/Walking App → Web application for pet owners (primarily targeted at dog people, but can include cats for some services) to arrange dog walking/sitting services. Could arrange for sitting services for cats. Also consider service for pet to be taken to the vet for routine appointments, or drop-off/pick-up from doggie day care?

Pet owners could register and then log in on the app, set up profiles for themselves and their pets -- and then search for the services and providers that they need, then request/schedule those services, also pay for the services provided. They could arrange to pay with stored card information or via PayPal.

Care providers could also register on the app, and once approved as a care provider (after background check etc.) log in and set up a profile for themselves. Care providers would specify which type of pets they are experienced in caring for -- dogs and/or cats. And for dogs, which sub-types they are skilled with: large/giant breeds, tiny breeds, puppies, elderly dogs, special-needs pets, pets with behavioral issues, etc. (this is important, trust me)

Questions:

- **What is new/original about this idea? What are related websites/apps?**
Existing apps that provide similar services are: [WagWalking](#) and [Rover](#). Of course, there is [Care](#) on which people can find babysitters or elder care.

Both of these sites/apps are “newer”, as in the last five years or so -- but at least they’re not long-standing like an eBay or something.

We could make this like an “Uber for Dogs” too, by offering transportation services.

Other ideas (to possibly be added piece-meal later) would be to link to “libraries” of relevant pet-care sites/articles... develop into a pet-based ‘social media lite’ app... another possibility is to coordinate/arrange pet-related social activities (similar to ‘[MeetUp](#)’)... directory of pet-related service by zipcode.

- **Why is this idea worth doing? Why is it useful and not boring?**
This idea is worth doing because more than half the population of the US owns pets, and most of those people truly love their pets and consider them family or

even their ‘kids’. If they are unable to care for their pets themselves, they want to be able to find someone who’s been “vetted” (pardon the pun) to assist. So there would be a broad appeal. Some people would need regular services, much as parents need regular child care.

It would be useful because pet owners could use a service like this -- and pet lovers who would like to make some extra money could register as care providers.

It’s not boring because most things pet-related are fun -- and, dog & cat photos!

- What are a few major features?

- * Profiles for the pet owners (clients) + pets, care providers
- * Ability to search/filter by care provider expertise (and of course location)
- * Ability to pay for services online -- and pay care providers?
- * Private messaging system between clients/care providers/app admin
- * Complete background checks on care providers when they register
- * ‘Check-ins’ -- Care providers can log check-ins about pets that will send a notification to the pet owner; i.e., when they pick up a pet or return it home

- What resources will be required for you to complete this project that are not already included in class?

Possible API’s we could employ:

- * scheduling\calendaring
- * payments -- incoming\outgoing
- * private messaging
- * profile creation
- * background checks (there are online services for this)
- * check-ins

- What algorithmic content is there in this project?

When a pet owner (aka client/customer) registers their pet(s), the app could search/filter the currently-registered care providers to suggest matches to the pet owner, for their type and sub-type of pet -- and immediately display those matches to the pet owner, with links to view the full profiles.

- Rate the topic with a difficulty rating of 1-10.

Estimation, 6 to 7 -- there are a lot of API’s, some of which might be complicated (I think?)