1. **Background**

I have chosen to design a website for an animal shelter, specialized in rescuing, nursing, and giving rescued animals to adoption. The non-profit charity which owns this shelter relies on public donations and volunteers to achieve their goal: to rescue as many animals as possible. The issue of abandoned or mistreated animals is particularly important to me: I have owned cats and dogs since childhood, and I was taught to respect and love all animals. Unfortunately, in Romania, my birth country, for many years we have the stray dogs issue and many private organizations have tried to reduce the number of stray dogs and to educate people not to abandon animals anymore, but to sterilize them and treat them with affection instead. I own a cat, found abandoned on the streets, few weeks after it was born. He is Pipin and he is a very loving and beautiful cat.

To create the website, I have studied several shelter portals, especially <http://www.4animals.ro> which gave me inspiration, but when I began to sketch the wireframe, I have used my own vision.

The name I have chosen for the website is Poppy, as it is a quite common pet name here, in the UK, and I find it quite lovely.

1. **Wire Frames**

Please find attached the file “poppy.pdf”, which contains the wire frame for all of the pages on the website (10 in total). The layout is the same for the desktop and mobile versions (see more in section 7). I have decided to use Draw.io for creating the wireframe, because I am used to using it and it offers many useful tools and unlimited objects free of charge.

1. **Colour Choices**

My website is designed for an animal shelter, so it should inspire hope, optimism and joy, so I have chosen light yellow for the main page (header and footer). I do not want my website to be too colorful, that is why I used a faded shade of yellow.

On the other side, my website should also inspire generosity and the best color for that is green; again, I have used a more faded shade. Green is known worldwide as representing nature, healthiness, renewal, and by nature we understand all living beings, as are the animals in the Poppy shelter. I have used an online colour tool for getting the best color for the legends[[1]](#footnote-1), in contrast with the faded green I have used. I have used a darker shade of green for buttons and headers as a nice complementary color to the other colors of the website. I decided to stick with classic black for most of the text, as it is easily readable on the faded yellow and green backgrounds.

1. **Accessibility**

I have studied web accessibility to create website easily usable to people regardless of any disabilities they may have[[2]](#footnote-2).

My website respects accessibility rules, as I have included alternative text for images, helping the people with auditive disabilities who use Screen Readers to access websites. The Sign in and Register menus can be accessed using the Tab and Enter keys, without requiring a mouse click, useful for the people who must use a keyboard assistant.

1. **GDPR**

To respect the GDPR[[3]](#footnote-3) and Data Protection Act 2018, I have included 2 separate pages, one for Terms and Conditions and one for the Privacy Policy, accessible from the Register and Contact us pages through an agreement paragraph.

1. **Distance Selling**

Does not apply.

1. **Evaluation**

The evaluation process was by far the longest. It took me, my husband and my son to achieve a good, well-rounded evaluation of the web application, which took many stages, including the evaluation of the wire frame as well as several evaluations of each page and functionality in the application itself.

The fundamental concept on which the website is built is the usage of an iframe in the index page. All other pages are opened in said iframe, and this gives the website a consistent main menu and footer, allowing easy access to the other pages from any page the user find themselves in. This, however, has led to some implementation challenges, as a child page cannot directly access its parent’s iframe on several browsers due to security concerns. This has led to some workarounds using page refresh (when trying to go back to the home page after registering/signing in).

The homepage borrows ideas from many other homepages on all manner of websites and is meant for announcements or news about all things regarding the Poppy shelter or its parent organization.

I am particularly happy about the way I have implemented the adoption mechanism using JavaScript to load the Animal page with information read from a JSON file, depending on the image clicked by the user in the Adoption page. The JSON file contains the names and descriptions for all of the animals, contained in a list called “data”. When an image is clicked on the Adoption page, the image’s source path is set as the active animal in the session storage. Through a series of JavaScript function calls in the Animal page, the animal’s name is taken from the image’s path (from the session storage), and then it is searched in the list of animals in the JSON file and the description of the animal is obtained accordingly.

After a short evaluation of the Contact us page, I realized something of great importance was missing, and I figured out that people had no way of knowing where the shelter is situated. That lead me to the implementation of the Google Maps widget, which shows the location of the shelter in real time. Because I had no way of hiding my Google Maps API key, and because the widget doesn’t work without it, I have opted to put a print screen of the Google Maps position, overlapping the actual widget.

Thoughtful consideration has gone into the login and register functionalities. I have decided to use, in lieu of a database, the browser’s session storage to store login information. The user will remain logged in until the session expires. For both registering and logging in, I have implemented some basic validation for each field.

I decided to create the desktop version of the app first, because I have more experience using computers than mobile phones. After finishing up the desktop version, I went about adding responsiveness to the app. Because I don’t have big lists of buttons or other content, through opinions formulated by both of my testers, I decided to keep the same layout for the mobile version. This is done by decreasing the content size.

I have used GitHub for version control. Please access the following link for the source code: <https://github.com/CristinaConsta/WebTech/tree/master/Poppy>.

1. <https://colorate.azurewebsites.net/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://gdpr-info.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)