Maintenance Plan:

Once the project has been fully deployed it would cost very little to maintain the product for the next year. The way we set up the product individual users can add and remove information from the database throught the website itself. That means that in theory no developer would need to be hired unless they were going to work on fixing bugs and, or improving the code for future updates.

If we did hire a developer they could in theory streamline the code or expand it to work for more types of animals, which would allow the product to be marketed to a wider audience or organizations. How much it would cost would depend on the developer hired. One person would definitely be enough manpower to maintain and improve the product, so the cost would be a range due to the range of what we could utilize. A developer with a full degree would be the most capable but would probably cost between $60,000 - $100,000 to hire. As the web app is designed for use with charity organizations it would make more sense for the app to be made open-source and allow people to volunteer their time to update the code.

Other costs would include paying for google cloud once the free trial is over and paying for a true domain name. The cost for google cloud varies based on usage, meaning that the more the product is used the more expensive it would be to maintain. A domain would cost $12 per year through google domains.

All of the previous costs would be if we only deployed the product to one organization (the original organization intended). If we decided to offer the product to other organization for use the need for developers and the cost for the database and domains would increase a great amount. We would either need to continue to work on the project ourselves, hire developers or make it clear to other organizations that they need to find volunteers or hire a web developer to integrate the project into their websites.

If we did that it would probably make the most sense to continue to work on the project as forcing other organizations to hire developers or find volunteer developers could lead to problems down the road. As we are familiar with our own code this would allow for easier refactoring as well.

As stated in the deployment plan, at this time and in the form that the project is in now, it would make more sense to only deploy the product to the intended organization. It would make more sense to essentially reorganize or restructure the whole product focused on the backend if we were to deploy to other organizations. This would also lower the cost for maintenance for each additional customer as well. That said restructuring the project at this stage would be much less labor intensive now than when we started project 3 as we are all now far more familiar with the languages, services, and code involved.