

School of Computing RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FORM FOR ETHICAL REVIEW OF A RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS WHICH IS IN THE CATEGORY OF NOTIFICATION ONLY

There are 3 generally accepted levels of ethical review for projects carried out in a University or similar setting. These are notification only, expediated and full committee.

This notification only level of review is to approve relatively low-risk research involving human participants, primarily using social science methodologies in which any personal information collected is not of a sensitive nature. The School of Computing Research Ethics Committee has been delegated responsibility by the University to approve ethics submissions from undergraduate and taught Masters projects only, which are in the category of notification only.

Examples of projects in this category include:

- Anonymous surveys in which the topic itself is not likely to elicit significant difficulties for the participants, such as: anonymous internet surveys (e.g. Survey Monkey), street questioning.
- Observation (without audio or visual recording) of public settings where privacy would not normally be expected, such as observing people on streets or at sports events.
- Research carrying no risks beyond those of everyday life (as experienced by the intended participant population), such as asking people's opinions about products or services; asking students about educational experiences; monitoring the impact of daily activities.
- Interviews with public figures, professionals or others in their professional capacity regarding their professional activities.
- Analysis of data (e.g. health records) which have had all identifying information removed by the data holder and been provided to the researcher in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Collection of biological samples which are anonymised and do not require invasive techniques (e.g. hair, nails).

If your project is using data from a public repository like Kaggle or is not generating or using any form of personal data then you do not need research ethics approval, you do not need to complete and to submit this form and your project supervisor should indicate this on the project dashboard.

If your project involves collecting or processing <u>personal data which is of a personal nature</u>, you must first complete the DCU online Data Protection training course and review the <u>"Data Protection – Key Points for DCU Researchers"</u> guidance from the Data Protection Unit to assist you in meeting your legal obligations under GDPR and associated Irish law.

Once you have completed this form (if you need to) you should save it as a PDF file, not WORD, and upload it to your project dashboard before you start gathering data. It will then be read and assessed by two members of the committee and once two members of the committee approve your submission you will be automatically notified by email and your project can start data gathering.

There are strict deadlines for submitting this form for each class group, undergraduate and taught Masters by which your submission must be made and you will be informed of these deadlines by your course board chair or project co-ordinator. If you do not submit by these deadlines then the research ethics committee is not obliged to approve your submission and when that happens and your project is assessed and graded at the end of the year, you will be awarded 0 for that component of your project.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL DET	AILS	
1.1 Project Title		
Saving an animal worldwide		
1.2 Applicant Details		
TN.		le "
Name	Student or Supervisor	E-mail
Josh Casey	Student	josh.casey24@mail.dcu.ie
Jakub Czerniejewski	Student	jakub.czerniejewski2@mail.dcu.ie
Micheal Scriney	Supervisor	michael.scriney@dcu.ie
Other Investigators: Including	any external to DCU	
Name	School/Unit/External Institution	E-mail
1.3 Key Project Dates	Decreased and data for data	Donner and marks of
Proposed start date for data collection	Proposed end date for data collection	Proposed project
7/2/2024	20/2/2024	completion date 23/2/2024
11212024	20/2/2024	23/2/2024
1.4 Please indicate which ac	ademic award	
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SECTION 2 - PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research Overview - Please respect the indicated word counts in the following sections and explain all acronyms in full text the first time they appear.

2.1 Provide a brief description of the research (max 250 words):

Please use lay language, include the scientific/theoretical background of study and a justification as to why this research project should proceed in that context.

to mily time receases project estead proceed in that contexts
Research will consist of the collection of vets geo coordinates, along with a user's feedback and opinions, while also requesting consent for the user's current location from the device they are on.

	2.2	Please	state t	he aims	and ob	iectives	of the	project (max 200 v	words)
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The aim of our project it to provide users with an easy-to-use web app that allows them to ge	et help
for their pets in the most efficient way possible. Another objective would be to reduce the n	umber
of stray and abused animals.	

2.3 Please confirm your methods of data collection:

Tick all relevant check boxes and provide details for each one, including any devices used to collect data, and whether the data will be anonymous, potentially identifiable or identifiable at point of collection.

Method	Describe briefly
☐ Interviews or focus groups	
Surveys/questionnaires	This will be for collecting a user's email and password. Getting consent for use of data.
☐ Audio/video recordings	
☐ Public observations	
☐ Persons in public office	
□ Using existing data (incl. secondary data)	We will be using the geo coordinates provided online of vets to populate our database.
☐ Using human derived	
material (biological samples)	
☐ Standard tests	
(educational/personality etc.)	
☐ Standard educational	
practices	
☐ Other (please specify)	

2.4 Please confirm who the participants on this study will be, including group size and

composition:
Include associated demographic characteristics, and state how your proposed sample size was
determined (e.g. power analysis)
The study will consist if normal everyday people such as college students. The sample size was determined by the current number of computer science students in DCU.
2.5 Please outline your recruitment process, including where you are sourcing participants
from and your criteria for inclusion/exclusion:
Where gatekeepers are involved, outline the procedures relating to their involvement.
The local college campus is where we will source our participants with the inclusion criteria consisting of those who study computer science.
Consisting of those who study computer science.
2.6 Addressing participant vulnerability – if your participants fall into any of the following
categories, please check the relevant tick box/boxes and state below what special
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2.7 Involvement of children under 18 years of age – if your participants are in this category, please confirm compliance with the following:

If your participants are not in this category, tick N/A
⊠ N/A
☐ We confirm that we have read and agree to act in accordance with the DCU Child Protection
policy and procedures (as per the DCU Child Protection Unit webpage)
☐ We confirm that we have put in place safeguards for the children participating in the research
☐ We confirm that we have supports in place for children who may disclose current or historical
abuse (whether or not this is the focus of the research)
☐ We confirm that all requirements will be met prior to commencing the research (e.g. TUSLA
Children First Training completed, Garda Vetting in place)
2.8 Please confirm how the results of the research will be disseminated:
Include a statement on whether the participants will be provided with any information as to the
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SECTION 3 – ETHICAL ISSUES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

research. What are the or minimised?	e potential risks to participa	sues which may arise in the course of this ints, and how will those risks be addressed
		legal, etc. Please include details of any
additional support being	ı provided for participants duri	ng/after the study.
There aren't any poten	tial risks.	
research:	potential benefits (direct a	nd/or indirect) to those participating in this
		can potentially improve their animals living.
2 2 Places describe wh	not manguros/protocolo vou	have nut in place in the event that there are
		have put in place in the event that there are participants arising from involvement in the
There won't be any un	expected or adverse effects.	
2.4 Da way intend to n		
Yes	rovide payment or incentive No ⊠	s to participants?
If Yes, please consult th	e REC Guidelines on the Use	of Compensation and Incentives (in the Ethics
Resources and Guidelin	es section of the <u>DCU Resear</u>	rch Ethics webpage) before providing additional
0.5.D		n the meaning them of the 2
	- -	r the researchers themselves? ne research is being conducted, exposure to
distressing data content		_
Yes 🗆	No ⊠	

DCU Research Support

If Yes, please describe further and explain what risk management procedures will be put in place to minimise these risks to researchers:
3.6 Does this research raise any potential conflict of interest?
Please consider any potential real or perceived conflicts of interest that might influence the integrity
of the research, or give rise to bias in conducting and reporting the research, or affecting publication
(consult the <u>DCU Conflict of Interest Policy</u> for assistance)
Yes □ No ⊠
If Yes, please identify and explain the steps being taken to address that conflict:
3.7 Please describe how the conduct of the research will be monitored:
Regular oversight by the PI is required to ensure the project conforms to the procedures set out in
this application (especially where several people are involved in carrying out the research
procedures)
N/A

SECTION 4 – CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA MANAGEMENT

4.1 Considering your previous response in section 2.3 of the form on data collection, please confirm whether you are collecting or processing personal data in this research project:
Personal data is any information about a living person, where that person is either identified, or
could be identified from the data itself, or when it is combined with other data. This includes paper
based, electronic and biological samples data. If your data is fully and completely anonymous, it is
not personal data.
Yes ⊠ No □
If Yes, please confirm your compliance with the following by ticking the checkboxes:
guidance on the DCU Data Protection Unit (DPU) website and agree to protect and manage our
data in accordance with same.
project, and confirm that all DPU GDPR requirements have been met prior to submitting this
application (e.g. completion of Data Protection questionnaire, confirmation that any survey tool
being used is GDPR compliant, that required Data Processing or Sharing Agreements will be in
place, etc.)
4.2 Data access - please confirm whether access to participant data is confined to the
nvestigators named on this application:
Yes ⊠ No □
If No, please name who the other individuals are and why they need access. Any proposed transfer
of data (including outside of the EU) should be detailed here.
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4.3 Data storage – please confirm compliance with the following:
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Name the relevant DCU investig	gator/s	
Micheal Scriney		
	on 15: Retention of Personal Data in	
Points for DCU Researchers" gu	uidance on the DCU Data Protection	Unit (DPU) website
The data will be roughly held for	or 2 weeks.	
	appen to the data collected at the ox and complete the associated follow	•
Archived □	Destroyed ⊠	Other
4.6.1 Archived data Please provide the following det Name the DCU staff member responsible for archival and future use of data Confirm whether the data will be made available to other researchers, and if so, how? Confirm how the data will be prepared for archive (e.g. will datasets be anonymised)	ails:	
Confirm where the data will be archived and who will be allowed to access it		
4.6.2 Destroyed data Please provide the following responsibility for data destructio the time of destruction Please justify why the data will be destroyed	details – Note: for student projection if there is no guarantee the studen The data is no longer needed by ar	t will have access to the data at
Name the DCU researcher responsible for destruction of data	Micheal Scriney	
Confirm when the data will be destroyed (specify date)	04/3/2024	
Confirm compliance with the following destruction methods (tick relevant boxes)	 ☑ Electronic data will be overwritte ☐ Paper based data will be confide ☐ Medical samples will be disposed relevant DCU approved SOP 	entially shredded

4.6.2 Other - Please exp	olain what will happen	to the data if not being	g archived or destro	yed:
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There is no alternative to the data being destroyed.

SECTION 5 - PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURES

In addition to completing this form you are required to attach, within the single PDF that you submit, a copy of (1) the Participation Information Sheet which you share with your participants and (2) a copy of the Informed Consent Form which your participants sign.

5.1 Please confirm that the following items have been addressed in your Participant Information Sheet which should be shared with all participants whether it involves online or in-person data gathering:

The items below should be used as headings in your information sheet. Note the language used under each item must reflect the participant age group and corresponding comprehension level— if your participants have different comprehension levels (e.g. both adult and child participants) then separate sheets must be prepared for each set. Templates are available via the <u>REC Forms</u>—Applications. Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics website.

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item	Yes	No
Introductory Statement (Researcher names and titles, school, title of the research study)	\boxtimes	
What is this research about?	\boxtimes	
Why is this research being conducted?	\boxtimes	
Why have you been invited to take part?		\boxtimes
What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?	\boxtimes	
How will your data be used?	\boxtimes	
How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?	\boxtimes	
What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?		\boxtimes
What are the risks of taking part in this research study?		\boxtimes
Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?	\boxtimes	
How will you find out what happens with this project?		\boxtimes
Contact details for further information		\boxtimes
5.2 Informed Consent Procedures – please confirm whether written consent is to	be ob	tained
Please tick the relevant checkbox		
Yes ⊠ No □		
If Yes, describe the procedures by which written consent will be obtained. If you are in participants, you will also need to obtain their written assent. Templates are available Forms - Applications, Templates and Amendments section of the Research Ethics we Written consent will be obtained in the form of a digital signature.	via the	
If No, describe the procedures regarding how consent/assent will be obtained:		
110, Gooding the procedures regarding new consentations will be obtained.		

If you are gathering data from an online process such as Google Form or SurveyMonkey then you should use a page such as the one below, to capture participants' informed consent and your data gathering should not proceed until participants have completed this form with the appropriate answers.

Participant - please complete the following (by clicking Yes/No for each question)

I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me) *	I understand I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point *
Yes	○ Yes
O No	O No
I understand the information provided *	I have read and understand the arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is
○ Yes	subject to legal limitations *
O No	○ Yes
0	○ No
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study *	I have read and understand confirmations relating to any other relevant information as indicated in the PLS.*
○ Yes	○ Yes
O No	○ No
I understand the information provided in relation to data protection *	I consent to participate in this research study *
O Yes	○ Yes
O No	O No
I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions *	
O Yes	
O No	

SECTION 6 - SUBMISSION CHECKLIST AND RESEARCHER DECLARATION

6.1 Please confirm all required supplementary documentation to be included in this application within Section 7:

Checklist – tick the relevant check box for each item		N/A
Participant Information Sheet/s	\boxtimes	
Informed Consent Form/s	\boxtimes	
Informed Assent Form/s		\boxtimes
Recruitment Advertisement		\boxtimes
Questionnaire/Survey	\boxtimes	
Interview/Focus Group Questions		\boxtimes
Debriefing Material		\boxtimes
Bibliography		\boxtimes
Approval from another Research Ethics Committee		\boxtimes
Evidence of other external approvals (e.g. Board of Management letter)		\boxtimes
Evidence of internal approvals (e.g. BSC approval review letter)		\boxtimes
Other – provide details here:		\boxtimes

6.2 Signed Declaration

By submitting this form, the applicant (and supervisor) agree to the following:

The information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, accurate. I have read the University's current research ethics guidelines, and accept responsibility for the conduct of the procedures set out in the attached application in accordance with the form guidelines, the <u>REC guidance and resources</u>, the University's <u>Conflict of Interest Policy</u>, its <u>Code of Good Research Practice</u> and any other condition laid down by the Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee. I have attempted to identify all risks related to the research that may arise in conducting this research and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

I also acknowledge my requirement to be informed as to other duties and legal obligations applying to my research, and to comply with these duties and obligations – this includes being informed about DCU Data Protection guidelines for researchers, DCU Child Protection policy and procedures (where relevant) and DCU Insurance requirements.

I and my co-investigators and/or supporting staff have the appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to conduct the research set out in the attached application and to deal with any emergencies and contingencies related to the research that may arise. Research will not commence until required consents and approvals are in place.

Electronic Signature(s):

_	Michael Scrin	sy_
Supervisor		0
Print Name here:Michael Scriney_		
Date: 19/02/2024		
Student(s) signature(s):Josh Case	ey,Jakub Czerniejewski	
Print Name(s) here:Josh (Casey, Jakub Czerniejewski _	

Date:05/02/2024	_
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SECTION 7 – SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

Please attach all required documentation as confirmed by you in the previous section. The application should then be saved as one file in <u>PDF format</u> before submission via the project dashboard.

Informed consent Form

Research Study Title

Research Study Title: Veterinary Assistance App Development

School Involved: DCU

Principal Investigators: Josh Casey, Jakub Czerniejewskie

Clarification of the purpose of the research

I understand that the purpose of this research study is to develop a mobile application to assist users in finding nearby veterinary services for their animals in need of urgent care. Personal data may be collected and processed for the purposes of this study.

Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Plain Language Statement

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)

I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)	Yes/No
I understand the information provided	Yes/No
I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study	Yes/No
I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions	Yes/No
I am aware that my interview will be audiotaped	Yes/No
I consent to the research of this study	Yes/No

Confirmation that involvement in the Research Study is voluntary.

I understand that my participation in this research study is voluntary, and I may withdraw from the Research Study at any point.

Confirmation of acknowledgement of data retention period.

I understand that the data collected as part of this research study will be retained for a specific period. This ensures that data is kept for no longer than necessary for the purposes outlined in the study and is handled as needed.

Confirmation of arrangements to be made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations.

I acknowledge that arrangements will be made to protect the confidentiality of my data. However, I understand that confidentiality of information provided is subject to legal limitations.

Confirmation of arrangements regarding archiving/destruction of data

I understand that data collected as part of this research study will be archived and/or destroyed in accordance with the data retention policy of Dublin City University.

Signature:

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this research project

Participants Signature:	
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DCU Research Support

Name in Block Capitals: _	
Witness:	
Date:	

Information Sheet

Introductory Statement

Names: Josh Casey (Undergraduate), Jakub Czerniejewski (Undergraduate)

DCU School: Computing and Engineering

Research Study: Web application development for veterinary assistance.

What is this research about?

This research aims to develop a web application to assist users in finding nearby veterinary services for their animals in need of urgent care.

Why is this research being conducted?

This study is being conducted to address the need for an accessible platform that efficiently connects pet owners with veterinary care during emergencies or urgent situations.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been invited to participate in this study to provide valuable feedback on the usability and effectiveness of the app. Your involvement, if provided in this research will not affect your ongoing assessment, grades, or management.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to provide feedback on the app's features, usability, and overall experience. This may involve testing the app's functionalities and providing your opinions through surveys or interviews. The estimated time for completion is roughly only two minutes at most.

How will your data be used?

Your data will be processed and held by the research team (Josh Casey & Jakub Czerniejewskie) for the purpose of analysing the effectiveness of the veterinary assistance app. Personal data collected may include contact information and feedback provided during the study. Your data will be kept confidential and will only be accessible to the research team. It will not be shared with any third parties outside of DCU without your explicit consent. If data is intended for future studies, it will be anonymized to protect your privacy.

How will your privacy be protected (including any legal limits to confidentiality)?

Please note that confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law. Your personal data will be securely stored and accessed only by authorized members of the research team. However, in certain circumstances, such as legal obligations or mandated reporting, confidentiality may be breached.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

By participating in this study, you will contribute to the development of a valuable tool that can potentially save the lives of animals in need of urgent veterinary care. Additionally, you may gain insights into the process of app development and contribute to advancements in veterinary technology.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

There are minimal risks associated with participating in this study. However, potential risks include the disclosure of personal information during feedback sessions. To mitigate this risk, all data will be handled confidentially and stored securely.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from this study?

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any stage by contacting the research team. You have the right to withdraw your consent to participate, and any data collected up to that point will be removed from the study.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

You will receive updates on the progress of the project via email or any other agreed-upon communication methods. Additionally, you can contact the research team for further information at any time.

Retention period of your data?

Your data will be retained by our team for a period of 2 week. This retention period allows for the analysis of data and any potential inquiries. After this period, the data will be destroyed to protect your privacy. The retention period for data is determined on the criteria of the nature of this project and our research purposes.

Complaints concerning the use of personal data?

Participants have the right to lodge a complaint concerning the use of their personal data with the Irish Data Protection Commission at any time during the process.

Accessing your own personal data?

Participants will have the right to access their own personal data collected as part of this research study. You have the right to review the data we have collected on you during any point of the process. If you wish to do so, please see below on how to reach our team Josh & Jakub, or contact the data protection unit, Martin Ward.

Contact details for further information:

If you have any concerns about this study or wish to withdraw your consent, please contact:

Josh Casev

Email: josh.casey24@mail.dcu.ie

Jakub Czerniejewski

Email: jakub.czerniejewski2@mail.dcu.ie

Martin Ward

Email: data.protection@dcu.ie
Phone: 7005118 / 7008257

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact: The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie