

Testing and Verification (Step 5)

Test Case 1: Normal Scheduled Feeding, Pet Eats

Input: 8:00 AM, food available, no manual override.

Expected Output: Servo dispenses food, bowl weight drops by $\geq 5\text{g}$, no alert triggered.

Actual Output: Bowl weight reduced by 6g, no alert.

Result: Pass, system worked correctly.

Test Case 2: Scheduled Feeding, Pet Does Not Eat

Input: 6:00 PM, food available, no manual override.

Expected Output: Food dispensed, bowl weight remains almost unchanged ($< 5\text{g}$ difference), alert triggered.

Actual Output: Weight decreased by only 2g, alert sent.

Result: Pass, alert system functioned as designed.

Test Case 3: Partial Feeding Not Detected

Input: Feeding at 8:00 AM, food available, pet consumes only 2g.

Expected Output: Alert triggered since change is $< 5\text{g}$.

Actual Output: Alert not generated — system failed to recognize partial feeding.

Result: Fail, incorrect assumption about feeding.

Test Case 4: Servo Motor Failure

Input: 6:00 PM feeding time, food available, no manual request.

Expected Output: Servo rotates, food dispensed, bowl weight decreases.

Actual Output: Servo malfunctioned, no food released, weight unchanged, no error alert.

Result: Fail, failure not detected.

Test Case 5: Manual Feeding

Input: Manual button pressed, food available.

Expected Output: Servo dispenses portion, bowl weight decreases $\geq 5\text{g}$, no alert.

Actual Output: Weight reduced by 5g, no alert.

Result: Pass, manual function successful.

Test Case 6: Empty Food Storage

Input: 8:00 AM feeding time, bin empty.

Expected Output: No servo action, alert for refilling.

Actual Output: Alert generated correctly.

Result: Pass, food availability detection worked.

Discussion of Issues

The system's logic exposes two main weaknesses:

1. Rigid 5g Threshold:

The system assumes any change below 5g means no food was eaten.

This fails for small pets or partial consumption (e.g., a cat eating 2–3g).

2. No Servo Feedback:

If the motor fails, the system does not detect that food was never dispensed.

This can result in missed feedings going unnoticed.

Refinements Suggested

- **Adaptive Thresholds:** Allow staff to configure the weight sensitivity according to pet size and meal portions.
- **Multi-Interval Monitoring:** Check bowl weight multiple times (e.g., every 5 minutes for 30 minutes) instead of once after 10 minutes.
- **Motor Feedback Mechanism:** Add a sensor to confirm servo rotation.
- **Visual/Motion Verification:** Use a simple motion sensor or camera to confirm pet activity near the bowl.
- **Enhanced Alerts:** Integrate mobile notifications or a web dashboard for quicker responses by staff.