Phase 3: Data Modeling & Relationships

This phase focused on building the application's data architecture, which is the core of the entire system. A well-designed data model ensures that information creating custom objects to represent real-world entities, adding fields to capture specific data points, and establishing relationships to connect the objects together.

Step-by-Step Process:

- 1. **Designing Custom Objects:** The first step was to design and create the three essential custom objects for the application. ¹The Pet object was created to store all information about the animals, the Adopter object was built to manage applicant details, and the Adoption Request object was designed to track each individual application. ²
- 2. **Adding Custom Fields:** Once the objects were created, custom fields were added to capture essential attributes. ³ For the Pet object, fields like Pet Name, Breed, Age, and Status were added. For the Adopter object, key contact fields such as First Name, Last Name, Email, and Phone were configured to store applicant information.
- 3. **Building Relationships:** The most critical step was connecting the objects to create a relational data model. ⁴ This was achieved by adding two lookup relationship fields to the Adoption Request object. One lookup field connects to a specific Pet record, and the other connects to a specific Adopter record. This crucial link ensures that every adoption application is tied directly to both an animal and a person, forming the relational backbone of the entire application.

