Animal Shelter Homepage

# The Purpose of this Webpage

The reason behind this project was, to create an open source webpage template with an easy understandable CMS (content management system) that also has a full functioning database behind it. Since animal shelters don’t have a lot of support and are most of the time on a tight budget, we decided to support them since we appreciate their work in helping animals in need for our community.

# Technologies

## OBJECT ORIENTATION

The reason we tried to keep stuff object oriented, was that we have a pretty big project. The problem with these kinds of sized Webpages is that you can lose track of the code easily. We decided to split our webpage into 2 main folders called (PHP and ADMINPANEL) inside the PHP folder is the main website stored, which is accessible for the end-user. The ADMINPANEL will be only visible for the admin’s of the database/webpage so we put it in an own folder. We also put the CRUD Applications (the stuff that retrieves/edits/uploads/deletes stuff from the database) inside a include folder and named file endings with a .inc.php so we instantly know what kind of files we are working with.

## PHP

We decided to use PHP since we work a lot with a MYSQL Database, and this technology makes it the easiest to work with it. PHP has a lot to offer when working with Databases; it makes life easy when trying to retrieve/edit/upload/delete data from it. Also being able to write HTML in normal PHP files was a big plus for us as well

## BOOTSTRAP

Bootstrap is a quality of life Framework to make the website mobile friendly. Also the look of the buttons and navigation-bar is commonly used so it’s something that awakens trust in the user; it just looks clean and simple and makes writing the frontend a lot faster!

## JQUERY

jQuery is a lightweight, “write less – do more” JavaScript library – in that sense it made writing the JavaScript much faster and foremost also easier. Since we had a tight timeframe on this project we were forced to use libraries like this (or frontend frameworks like bootstrap), so we relied on them to get the Job done in a faster time.

## JAVASCRIPT

JavaScript had to be used for the logic and some animations. We also used a lot of jQuery for the animations but for event handlers and this kind of stuff we stuck to JavaScript.

# CMS (Content Management System)

## The Purpose of a CMS

Since an animal shelter has a fluent change in data (receiving/giving-away animals, reports, new supporter, new sponsors and so on…) an easy to use CMS is a very important thing for them. At a project of this size there is a lot of data that the admin wants to change (as mentioned above). It’s important to have a nice overview and also to keep in mind that the people using this CMS aren’t used to technology and/or computers. It’s very important to keep it as user friendly as possible!

## Our way of doing it

We decided on a having a Dashboard where after login-in the admin is able to see all the things he can do (Edit/Upload/Users/etc…), also having a navigation bar on every site so he is able to quickly navigate through the webpage.

Our Pages for the Adminpanel (CMS) were as follows:

* Dashboard (Overview for all the things he is able to do)
* Upload Cat (For uploading the Cat images/data)
* Upload Dog (For uploading the Dog images/data)
* Edit Cats (for editing their story/information, also if the animal is gone/died change one int value for being displayed on a different page)
* Edit Dogs (for editing their story/information, also if the animal is gone/died change one int value for being displayed on a different page)
* Users (for User administration, the admin can create/update/delete users from there)
* Upload/Edit/Delete Reports
* Upload/Edit/Delete Team member
* Upload/Edit/Delete Shelter images
* Upload/Edit/Delete Sponsors
* Link to main page

# Main Page

## The purpose of the Main Page

To keep it short: keep it as simple as possible.

We tried creating our website (which is the one visible for the end user) as user friendly as possible. Finding a Dog/Cat that you want to support/adopt should be as easy as possible. We looked at many different animal shelter homepage’s but on many you had to click through hundreds of links to get to your page. We didn’t want to have that, so we decided to create our own template.

## Our way of doing it

We wanted to have a very clean interface with a nice to navigate-through navigation bar so users feel welcome on our page.

Our links in the navigation bar are as follows:

* The Name of the animal shelter (Which is a link to the landing page)
* About us drop down:   
  - Our mission (Just static text about their mission)  
  - Our team (A team page which is updateable through the adminpanel)  
  - Sponsors ( A clean interface to get a quick overlook of their current sponsors; updateable through the adminpanel)  
  - Gallery (Pictures about the animal shelter to get a sense of how it looks like)
* Dog & Cats drop down:  
  - Dogs (A list of all dogs with a Info/adopt/support button)  
  - Cats (A list of all cats with a Info/adopt/support button)  
  - Search (Search bar for finding specific kind of animals)  
  - Adopt (Information about adopting a pet)  
  - Support (Information about supporting a pet)  
  - In happy home (Pets that already got adopted)  
  - In memoriam (Animals that sadly died at the shelter)
* Reports (Stories from already adopted pets / Stories from supporters / Stories from people that help the shelter)
* Contact (Just basic contact information with the bank information, a google maps location and a form to send an email as well)
* Other drop down:   
  - To Read (Blog) (Some blog posts from the animal shelter)  
  - Documents (PDF Documents)