# Part 1 - Team Contract

Team Contract

**Team Name:** Paw Patrol

### Team Members

- *Megan Lau, lau.me@northeastern.edu*
- *Christina Medeiros, medeiros.ch@northeastern.edu*
- *Arunima Prasad, prasad.aru@northeastern.edu*
- Team Web Page: Paw Patrol Pet Adoption Project
- All members are registered for the IS4300 version of the course

### Designated Roles

- **Megan** will manage the team arranging meetings, setting agendas, etc., and having the meetings focused.
- **Christina** will submit deliverables for all assignments.
- **Arunima** will handle background research if any questions arise.

Everyone:

- In case we haven't heard from anyone, we will first try to contact the teammate using multiple forms of communication (email and text). If we cannot get a hold of them, the remaining team members will reach out to the TA's or Professor Intille.
- To decide if we will use a late day, we will discuss the option as a group, and listen to each option and weigh those accordingly.
- When making decisions, we will go around and have everyone share their ideas to discuss pros and cons before making a decision.

### Communication Methods

*We are using a Google Drive folder for sharing documents, and text messaging as the primary method of communication.*

*Phone numbers:*

- *Megan Lau 617-304-8412*
- *Christina Medeiros 401-575-3855*
- *Arunima Prasad 508-934-6759*

### Coding

We will code our interface with a mix of languages including HTML, CSS, SQL, and Javascript. All team members have sufficient programming expertise in this language so that if the team is forced to split, they will be able to continue the project in that language.

## Meeting Logistics

*We will meet every Thursday from 5 pm - 6 pm EST using Google Meet (meeting link here). Team documents will be stored on Google Drive (found here).*

- *If needed, we'll continue the Thursday meeting until 8 pm EST.*

## Desirable Behaviors

- *Come to meetings on time and give a fair warning if you will be unable to make a meeting.*
- *Share work fairly.*
- *Be in class for the interactive exercises that we work on as a team.*
- *Respond to messages within 2 hours, if timezone differences permit.*
- *Treat teammates with respect.*
- *Listen to all opinions.*

## Acknowledgments

*We talked with Professor Intille about our team and classmates from the discussion post on Canvas and Piazza.*

# Part 2 - Team Proposal

## Problem

The adoption process for shelter dogs and cats is currently extremely frustrating since it is slow, tedious, and redundant to have adopters submit the same long application for multiple animals. As animals spend an increasingly long time in the shelters, they are less likely to be adopted which results in unjust euthanization. Oftentimes, those looking to adopt will prefer to go through the process for a younger animal who has been in the shelter for a shorter period of time. This is evidently a significant issue since people are adopting based on breed and physical 'cuteness'. However, older animals or animals who have been in the shelter for a long time deserve a forever home just as much. This interface is a novel idea since nothing like it currently exists on the market. While applications like Adopt a Pet and Petfinder exist right now, neither allow for the ability to sort animals by how long they have been in the shelter or allow for using a single universal application. According to an article Jen Reeder wrote, those suffering from COVID-19 hardships have begun to give up their pets to animal shelters since they are struggling to take adequate care of their pet. Now more than ever, society is in need of an interface that provides an efficient path to adopt animals in need. Animal adoption centers typically require those looking to adopt to physically come to the shelter. However, in a post-pandemic world, many have become comfortably accustomed to using technology for nearly all tasks. Therefore, by creating an interface that builds a bridge between pet adoption and the technology that has become a custom over the past year. Moreover, animals who have been in the shelter for the longest time will finally be able to get the priority and emphasis they need and deserve.

## Target users

**Primary Users:**
The first level and primary user of this interface would be the adopters, those looking to take in an animal from a shelter.

> Example Persona:
> Cathy is a 25-year-old 9-5 corporate worker who recently bought a house and has a comfortable income. She is bored of her everyday life and wants to have a friend when she gets home. Her family adopted animals when she was younger, but she has never adopted her own dog and is confused about the process. Cathy is hoping to adopt an animal in need who will motivate her to keep a structured agenda, a light exercise routine, and give her basic security measures.

**Secondary Users:**
The secondary users of this interface would be the shelter managers, who view the shelter as a business and want pets to be put up for adoption.

> Example Persona:
> Emily is the 55-year-old manager of a shelter in Providence, Rhode Island. She is the mother of three children and currently has 2 pets that she adopted from the shelter she works at. She is passionate about business management and animal rights and even started a charity that blends the two together.

**Tertiary Users:**
The tertiary users of this interface would be the shelter volunteers, who donate their time to help these pets find a better home. They do not make business decisions or benefit directly but they can influence how the shelter operates.

> Example Persona:
> Miranda is a 17-year-old volunteer who works on the weekends to help feed the animals and make sure their spaces are clean. She sometimes brings her friends from school to help with the animal shelter. She loves animals and wants to help out her community by getting these animals a home.

**External Users:**
The external users of this interface would be the donors and sponsors of the shelter. They are passionate about animal rights and make a point to show their activism through monetary donations and sponsorships.

> Example Persona:
> Aaron is a 30-year-old corporate employee who donates to his local shelter on a yearly basis. He has put together multiple animal activism groups and started his own foundation.

## Solution

By implementing a mobile application that focuses on the animals that have been in the shelter the longest, the process can be more straightforward and transparent about which animals should have a higher priority for adoption. Moreover, this interface utilizes a technological product to eliminate the barrier of location since users will be able to view and adopt animals even if they are far away. A new process is to create a single application profile, we can help adopters reduce the time they take to submit applications for multiple animals., By allowing the user to create one profile and application in this version of the interface, the problem of users getting frustrated with the hassle of submitting multiple applications is solved. The mobile application will have a landing page with the featured animals, where additional capabilities include filtering based on breed, age, and other characteristics. Although the default for these featured animals will be long-term shelter dogs, this will be customizable to the users' preference. The intent behind this application is to prioritize animals who have been in shelters the longest since they are less desirable to adopters. By creating an interface that focused on highlighting the moral and ethical problem that these animals are not currently being prioritized, we will successfully be able to bring awareness to the issue and propose a possible solution. This idea has developed from the first iterations since this version of the interface will extend to more shelter animals than just dogs. This project will be fully implementable by the end of the semester considering we are limiting the animals that are featured to cats and dogs. Knowing that all team members are extremely passionate about aiding shelter animals, our team will be committed to putting our full effort into making this project functional by the end of the semester. We have a few features that are realistic including different types of filters currently, but will add to this as time permits. We have identified the stakeholders, have experience in the coding language and will focus the scope of the project to address an easier process. Considering that we are not overestimating the amount we can do, the general layout of the project will be implementable by the end of the semester.