Project Requirements –

BarkBasics

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CSIT335\_01 HCI

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**A – Deliverables**

**A1:** List of User Interviews

**User 001:**

- Age: 28

- Gender: Male

- Occupation: Business Owner/Dog Owner

- General description: A new dog owner with limited knowledge in raising a dog.

1. What daily routine(s) do you need to keep track of for your dog?

*“Definitely bathroom breaks and a feeding schedule. I need to know when to be home so that I can take the dog out. I definitely want to avoid any accidents.”*

1. How are you keeping track of your dog’s training?

*“To be honest I don’t really have a method to keep track right now.”*

1. How do you keep track of vet appointments and vaccinations?

*“I usually will write them down in the Notes app on my smartphone, but it would probably be better to have a reminder for my next appointment. It’s also hard for me to keep track of the vaccination schedule.”*

1. What are the most important tasks that you need completed on a day to day basis?

*“Bathroom breaks are currently the most important. I have a short commute to work, so I am able to go home and take her out, but I still do not have a habitual schedule of when she needs to go out.”*

1. Do you have any constraints when completing or keeping track of these tasks?

*“I don’t have a centralized place to keep track of things for my puppy, so I have forgotten about an appointment or how much to feed her.”*

1. What features would you like to see in this application?

*“A reminder system as well as an upcoming event page that shows any activity that is scheduled to take place.”*

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share regarding these tasks?

“I would also like to be able to document the brand and amount of food my dog eats.”

**User 002:**

- Age: 60

- Gender: Male

- Occupation: Product Manager

- General description: Experienced dog owner that currently has two dogs and works from home.

1. What daily routine(s) do you need to keep track of for your dog?

*“My dogs have a fairly consistent daily routine since I work from home. But in order to juggle time to leave my desk and feed, walk, or train them, I need to have reminders set so I don’t forget.”*

1. How are you keeping track of your dog’s training?

*“I usually have a reminder set on my phone to take time and train them and play with them.”*

1. How do you keep track of vet appointments and vaccinations?

*“My wife usually handles that. She will write it down on a notepad, which isn’t very reliable. One year we were 6 months late in scheduling our dog’s rabies vaccination.”*

1. What are the most important tasks that you need completed on a day to day basis?

*“The most important tasks for me are making sure my dogs are fed at the same time every day, taken out for potty breaks, and getting enough training and stimulation throughout the day.”*

1. Do you have any constraints when completing or keeping track of these tasks?

*“It’s hard for me to schedule in advance when to complete these tasks. If I had a notification or alarm that reminded me before, then I can get the task done on time.”*

1. What features would you like to see in this application?

*“Like I said before, a reminder would be ideal so I can move around my schedule accordingly.”*

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share regarding these tasks?

“No.”

**User 003:**

- Age: 22

- Gender: Female

- Occupation: Student

- General description: College student that takes care of the family dog when her parents are working.

1. What daily routine(s) do you need to keep track of for your dog?

*“I usually need to keep track of my dog’s training, especially crate training.”*

1. How are you keeping track of your dog’s training?

*“Since my family purchased a puppy, the most important commands we’re teaching him are the basics such as sit, down, paw, and heel. I don’t really have a formal way to teach him right now. Also, it tends to be difficult to have a consistent schedule since there are 4 people in my home.”*

1. How do you keep track of vet appointments and vaccinations?

*“I don’t usually keep track of it, but I do get a reminder phone call from my veterinarian.”*

1. What are the most important tasks that you need completed on a day to day basis?

*“The most important for my family are bathroom breaks and keeping track of the different vaccinations and medications that Riley has to take.”*

1. Do you have any constraints when completing or keeping track of these tasks?

*“I’m a busy college student that commutes, so being able to keep track of my dog’s schedule and share it with my family is really important. Usually, we send text messages to communicate but sometimes we forget since we have opposite schedules. The app would be the perfect place to keep track of everything and my family can login to check when needed.”*

1. What features would you like to see in this application?

*“I think a feature not mentioned would include some sort of inventory, or ‘stuff’ tracker, that allows me to keep track of things for my dog such as food, waste bags, treats, and heartworm medication, so that I don’t run out.”*

1. Is there anything else that you would like to share regarding these tasks?

“I use my calendar app, reminder app, and iPad to keep track of everything, which is really inefficient.”

**A2:** List of Initial Tasks

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Requirement | Frequent & Important | Infrequent but Important | Infrequent & Unimportant |
| Feeding Schedule and Reminder | Yes |  |  |
| Water Schedule and Reminder |  | Yes |  |
| Bathroom Schedule and Reminder | Yes |  |  |
| Vet Schedule and Reminder |  | Yes |  |
| Vaccination Schedule and Reminder |  | Yes |  |
| Training Tracker |  |  | Yes |
| Profile Creation for Pet |  | Yes |  |
| List of Toxic Items |  |  | Yes |

**B- Task List Validation**

**B1:** A list of user discussions.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Users | Users Description | What do you think of the application? | What would you change, add, or delete? |
| 001 | - **Age**: 28  - **Gender**: Male  - **Occupation**: Business Owner  - **General description**: A new dog owner with limited knowledge in raising a dog. | “I think the application is great and helpful for not only new dog owners, but for seasoned dog owners as well.” | “I can easily google things such as toxic foods on google. I don’t really see how that is needed in the app.” |
| 002 | - **Age**: 60  - **Gender**: Male  - **Occupation**: Product Manager  - **General description**: Experienced dog owner that currently has two dogs and works from home. | “The application’s functionally can be condensed to like-minded functions. Overall, the app serves a purpose for a certain target group of dog owners.” | “I don’t think that the water and feeding scheduler and reminder should have two separate entities. They can go under the same category. I would say the same thing for the vet and vaccination reminder. Since those involve the same place, it makes sense to consolidate it into one. Also, most of my dogs’ vet appointments are automatically scheduled by the vet’s office, so I think this is the least important functionality.” |
| 003 | - **Age**: 22  - **Gender**: Female  - **Occupation**: Student  - **General description**: College student that takes care of the family dog when her parents are working. | “I think after removing some functions and adding more important ones, the app will be the perfect hub to house all kinds of information on your pet.” | “Having a dashboard with every scheduled task will be helpful instead of having to go to every tab to see when is scheduled for the week. Also like I said in the initial interview, an inventory tracker would be very useful. A user can add different items to the list and check them off when they are purchased.” |

**B2:** A Lists of Revised Tasks

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Revised Task | Revised Task Description | Revised Rank/Importance |
| Feeding Schedule & Reminder | Set interval reminders to feed your dog. Can also include brand of food and amount per serving. | 1 |
| Bathroom Schedule & Reminder | Set interval reminders to take your dog out. Can also record any notes. | 2 |
| Vet Appointments & Vaccination Schedule and Reminder | In this section, the user can set Interval reminders for either a vet appointment, a vaccination, or a medication. | 5 |
| Training Tracker | Have an increment tool that keeps track of how many times the dog has executed the command. After a certain number of executions, the dog will “learn” the command, gaining the milestone and achievement on their profile. | 3 |
| Pet Inventory Tracker | Here, the user can keep track of their pet items within their home and when inventory is low. The user can easily add an item to the list, and once the item is purchased, they can check off that item, removing it from the list. | 4 |
| Profile Creation for Pet | The account information will allow the user to create a profile for their pet. They can record information such as the dog’s name, date of birth, breed, and weight, as well as adding an image to personalize the page. Their main profile page will also contain a dashboard with everything that is scheduled to be completed in the future. This allows a centralized place without needing to visit every section of the app to gain information. | 6 |

**B3:** A Revised List of Users

* New AND experienced dog owners.

Based on the interviews and the revised list of tasks during the requirements gathering, I decided to broaden my target users to not only include just new dog owners, but experienced dog owners as well. Since the main functionality is to schedule and set reminders for daily dog tasks, this app does not only need to be targeted to new users. The training milestone tracker is also a functionality that can be used for all kinds of dog owners, even people with senior dogs. Overall, the main list of target users will remain with those who own dogs. A simplified UI/UX design will also cater to people not very familiar with complicated technology applications.

**C-Placement in Context**

1. Kogan, L. R., Schoenfeld-Tacher, R., & Viera, A. R. (2012). The internet and health information: Differences in pet owners based on age, gender, and Education. *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*, *100*(3), 197–204. https://doi.org/10.3163/1536-5050.100.3.010

This article demonstrates how different demographics access health information related to their pets. The study highlights that the internet can be a valuable source of health information for pet owners and that different demographic factors, such as age, gender, and education level, can impact its use. Therefore, incorporating different features within BarkBasics mobile application that will make it easier for dog owners to access and manage their pet’s schedule and will allow the application to become more useful for a wider range of pet owners. I would also need to consider the different demographics that are not familiar or comfortable with technology.

2. Mochel, J. P., Fink, M., Bon, C., Peyrou, M., Bieth, B., Desevaux, C., Deurinck, M., Giraudel, J. M., & Danhof, M. (2014). Influence of feeding schedules on the chronobiology of renin activity, urinary electrolytes and blood pressure in dogs. *Chronobiology International*, *31*(5), 715–730. https://doi.org/10.3109/07420528.2014.897711

The article investigates the effect of feeding schedules on the chronobiology of renin activity, urinary electrolytes, and blood pressure in dogs. The findings suggest that feeding schedules have a significant impact on the physiological and biochemical parameters in dogs, and this should be considered when developing pet care plans. Being able to provide a set schedule within a mobile application will allow dog owners to have a better handling on a healthy feeding schedule.

3. Magesh, G. (2020, October 25). *Case study: Do reminder apps ever remind you?* Medium. Retrieved February 23, 2023, from https://bootcamp.uxdesign.cc/do-reminder-apps-ever-remind-you-a-ux-research-study-46cb356a241e

The article presents a UX research study that examines the effectiveness of reminder apps. The study found that while users appreciated the convenience of reminder apps, they often found them to be unreliable. Participants suggested several design features that could improve reminder app effectiveness, such as custom reminders, a snoozing or delay function, and contextual reminders. The study emphasizes the importance of designing reminder apps that prioritize user needs to increase their usefulness and effectiveness. Since my system has several reminder functionalities, this article is useful for designing my application.