PAWS

: The Smart Pet Collar

MVP Report of PAWS

Team X

- Abhiskek Paudel
- Dikshant Mandi
- Punam Shrestha
- **Prameya Dhaubhadel**

Executive Summary

PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar is an innovative and intelligent solution that aims to improve pet safety, enhance the pet ownership experience, and provide pet owners with peace of mind. Traditional tracking techniques and pet collars often fall short of meeting the demands and expectations of pet owners, leading to stress and difficulties in ensuring the well-being of their beloved animals. To address these challenges, PAWS MVP combines cutting-edge technologies such as GPS tracking, activity monitoring, and heart rate monitoring into a single comprehensive device.

The GPS tracking feature enables real-time monitoring of the pet's location, ensuring their safety and facilitating swift recovery in case they go missing. The activity monitoring sensors allow pet owners to track their pets' daily movement and exercise routines, ensuring they receive adequate physical activity for their well-being. Additionally, the heart rate monitoring feature provides real-time data on the pet's health, contributing to a healthier lifestyle for the pet.

PAWS stands out among existing smart pet collars by offering an all-encompassing solution that integrates all critical functionalities into one collar. While other collars may excel in certain aspects, PAWS MVP provides a streamlined and user-friendly experience for pet owners. The prototype of PAWS uses the powerful ESP32 microcontroller, NEO-6M GPS module, heartbeat sensor, and ADXL345 accelerometer, all of which have been thoroughly tested for functionality and performance.

Looking ahead, PAWS aims to enhance its usefulness further by incorporating a PPG sensor for more efficient health monitoring and a user-friendly app interface to provide pet owners with easy access to their pets' data. Additionally, PAWS plans to integrate vet care illness alert capabilities and a sophisticated database system to enhance security and data management.

Overall, PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar MVP represents a significant advancement in smart pet care technology, revolutionizing how pet owners interact with and care for their furry companions. With its comprehensive features and continuous improvements, PAWS is set to redefine pet care and strengthen the bond between pets and their owners.

1. Introduction

Pet owners all over the world place a high priority on maintaining the safety and wellbeing of their beloved animals because they are beloved family members. Pet-human relationships foster understanding of animals beyond instinctual behavior, recognizing individual subjectivity, personhood, and respecting their animalness, rather than valuing them solely based on similarities (Fox, 2006). However, pet owners frequently struggle to adequately track their pets' movements, monitor their activity levels, and ensure their safety in a variety of scenarios. This resulted in the creation of PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar, an innovative and intelligent solution that uses cutting-edge technology to improve pet safety, the whole pet ownership experience, and provide pet owners with peace of mind.

At PAWS, we comprehend the close relationship that pets and their owners have as well as the worries that occur when animals disappear, display ill habits, or are exposed to dangers. The PAWS project was conceived out of a desire to develop a trustworthy and user-friendly tool that enables pet owners to keep in touch with their animals and make knowledgeable decisions about their health, safety, and daily activities.

2. Problem Statement

Traditional tracking techniques and pet collars frequently fall short of pet owners' demands and expectations. Pet owners face obstacles such restricted sight into their animals' movements, a lack of real-time monitoring of their levels of activity, and difficulty guaranteeing their animals' safety within predetermined parameters. These difficulties cause stress and impair pet owners' capacity to give their beloved friends the finest care and security. These create a huge gap to fulfill in one single device as there are not one single combined device to address this problem.

3. Literature Review

Smart pet collars have become a promising way for pet owners to keep tabs on and guarantee the welfare of their animals. In order to help pet owners track their animals' whereabouts, keep track of their activity levels, and ensure their safety, PAWS MVP was created. The importance and distinctiveness of PAWS in this context are highlighted in this review of the literature, which offers an overview of recent studies and related efforts in the field of smart pet collars.

3.1. GPS Tracking and Location Monitoring

Advanced technologies, such as GPS tracking, are incorporated into smart pet collars to give real-time pet location monitoring. Research has shown that GPS technology is helpful in correctly tracking pets' travels, assisting in the swift recovery of missing pets, and lowering the likelihood that dogs may become lost or stolen. This tracking technology not only sends the longitude and latitude coordinates to the mobile device, but it also shocks the carrier and sounds an alarm when the periphery is crossed (Punetha & Mehta, 2014). PAWS's GPS tracking features provide pet owners the opportunity to find their animals in real time, ensuring their safety and peace of mind.

Pet tracking technologies, such as GPS, Bluetooth, microchip implants, and radio frequency (RF), are widely used to locate and monitor pets. GPS, in particular, enables real-time tracking over a large area, making it an effective tool for finding missing pets. These advancements provide reassurance to pet owners and facilitate the timely reunification with their beloved animals (Tangsripairoj et al., 2018).

3.2. Activity Monitoring and Health Insights

Another essential component of smart pet collars is activity monitoring. These collars have sensors that keep tabs on the degree of activity, exercise habits, and general fitness of dogs. Research now available emphasizes the need of activity monitoring in understanding pets' exercise demands, spotting any changes in behavior or health, and making wise decisions about their welfare as it have widespread benefits (Chambers et al., 2021). The MVP of PAWS makes use of activity tracking to offer insightful data on pets' physical activity and promote a healthy way of life.

The study found that dog activity monitoring devices motivate owners to monitor health, behavior, and learning issues, balancing activity and rest (Väätäjä et al., 2018). This leads to increased time spent with the dog, improved relationships, and increased satisfaction. Development needs for dog activity monitoring solutions are discussed.

The literature review highlights the growing interest in smart pet collars, which can revolutionize pet care. PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar MVP addresses challenges faced by pet owners by incorporating GPS tracking, activity monitoring, and safety features. Research supports the importance of accurate tracking, activity monitoring, and user-friendly interfaces. Further development will contribute to the advancement of smart pet collars, improving the lives of pets and their owners.

4. PAWS MVP: Standing Out Among Others

This section compares prior works in the field of smart pet collars and highlights the distinctive features that distinguish PAWS (MVP) from existing alternatives. We can find the distinguishing qualities of PAWS that make it a standout product by evaluating the features, functions, and advancements of rival smart pet collars.

4.1. Previous Works in Smart Pet Collars

With a wide selection of options that include cutting-edge capabilities to meet pet owners' preferences, the industry for smart pet collars has made impressive strides. These collars have advancements like GPS tracking, enabling pet owners to keep track of their animals' whereabouts in real-time, giving them peace of mind, and making it easier to find lost animals quickly. Pet owners can now watch their pets' levels of exercise, spot behavioral changes, and check on their general well-being thanks to the popularity of activity monitoring capabilities. Virtual fence features have also become a useful way to set boundaries and get alerts when a pet wanders outside of predetermined safe zones.

In addition, smart pet collars now include extra safety features like LED lights for better visibility in low light, remote-controlled training options to help with behavior modification, and seamless integration with mobile applications for simple data collection and analysis. The favorable consumer response highlights the comfort, security, and improved pet care experience offered by these smart collars.

We learn important things about the industry's evolution and the problems that smart pet collars are designed to solve by looking at the landscape of earlier works in the field. This information forms the basis for assessing the distinctive qualities and distinctive components of PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar MVP.

4.2. Uniqueness of PAWS

PAWS distinguishes itself from other smart pet collars by combining numerous vital components for pet owners into a single comprehensive solution. While competing smart pet collars may excel in certain functions such as GPS tracking or activity monitoring, PAWS combines all critical functionalities into a single device, including accurate location tracking, health monitoring, and activity tracking. This all-encompassing strategy enables pet owners to easily obtain real-time location information, gain insights into their pet's health and exercise routines, and ensure their pet's general well-being. PAWS eliminates the need for pet owners to invest in several devices by merging these critical components into a single collar, offering them with a streamlined and user-friendly solution that other smart pet collars frequently fail to provide.

The Minimum Viable Product (MVP) version of PAWS incorporates the following key features:

1. Real-time GPS tracking: The smart pet collar utilizes GPS technology to accurately locate and track the pet's movements in real-time. Pet owners can view their pet's location on a map within the mobile application.
2. Activity monitoring: PAWS is equipped with sensors that monitor the pet's daily movement. Pet owners can track the duration, intensity, and types of activities their pets engage in, helping them ensure their pets receive adequate physical activity for their well-being.
3. Heart-Rate monitoring: Sensor embedded on PAWS allows user to track the real time heart rate of their pet on the go.

5. Technical Architecture and Components

5.1. MVP Description

PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar is an innovative solution that transforms how pet owners watch and interact with their pets. GPS tracking, activity monitoring sensors, temperature sensors, virtual fence capabilities, and an inbuilt LED light for better visibility during nighttime walks are all included in the smart pet collar.

PAWS uses these technologies to give pet owners real-time visibility into their pets' whereabouts, activity levels, and comfort. Pet owners may simply follow their pets' activities, receive notifications if their pets leave designated safe zones, check their pets' daily exercise levels, and assure their pets' well-being even under various environmental circumstances by using a user-friendly mobile application.

5.2. Current MVP Prototype

The current prototype of PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar's Minimum Viable Product (MVP) is covered in the section that follows. It gives a general summary of the prototype's appearance, attributes, and features. We learn more about the development of PAWS by analyzing the existing prototype, highlighting its potential, and showcasing the anticipated features of the finished product.

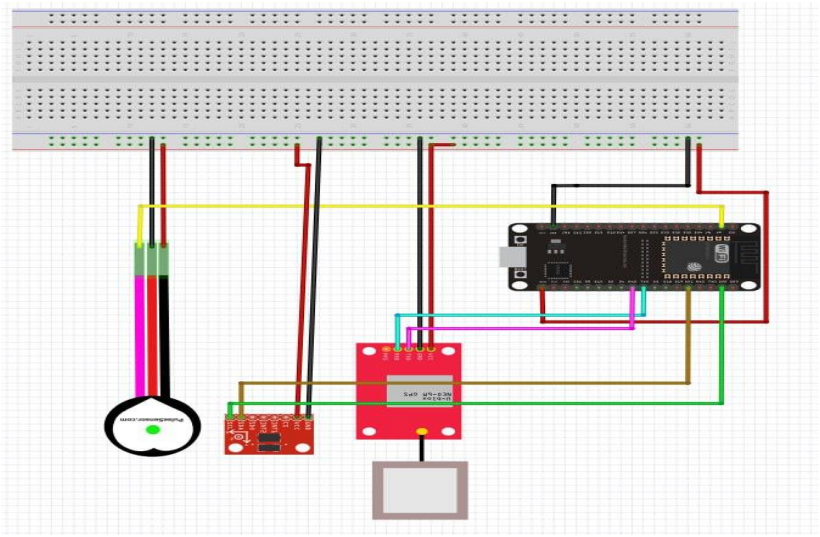

Figure 1: Schematic Connection of Sensors

5.2.1. ESP 32 in MVP

The PAWS (Pet Activity and Wellness System) uses the ESP32, a highly effective microcontroller, as its primary controlling element. The capabilities of the ESP32 are used by PAWS to transform how we care for our furry friends. The ESP32 enables PAWS to smoothly connect with our smartphones because to its integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities. This enables pet owners to track and monitor their pets' activity levels, locations, and general well-being in real-time. Long battery life is ensured by the ESP32's low power consumption, and PAWS can conduct complex health monitoring and behavior analysis algorithms thanks to its computing capacity. The ESP32-powered PAWS platform not only improves our pets' safety and security but also expands our understanding of their health, making our furry friends happier and healthier.

Figure 2: ESP 32

5.2.2. NEO-6M GPS Module in MVP

MVP is using the NEO-6M GPS module for tracking purposes. This cutting-edge module includes advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to deliver accurate and real-time tracking of pets. By integrating the NEO-6M GPS module into PAWS, pet owners can effortlessly monitor their furry companions' whereabouts and ensure their safety. This module provides the user with the precise latitude and longitude of the area that is being used to track the pet. These coordinates can be read on the map to exactly locate the collar.

Figure 3: NEO-6M GPS Module

5.2.3. Heartbeat Sensor in MVP

MVP monitors heart rate via the heartbeat sensor. The ESP32-connected heartbeat sensor measures heart rate using photo-detectors and infrared light. The sensor emits infrared light that is reflected back by blood vessels when it is applied to the skin. Photo-detectors pick up variations in blood flow and translate them into electrical impulses. These signals are processed by the ESP32, which also provides real-time monitoring and data transmission for diverse applications. The ability to see the pet's pulses in real time through the collar can help the user feel more confident about the health risk associated with it.

Figure 4: Heartbeat Sensor

5.2.4. ADXL345 Accelerometer in MVP

The accelerometer sensor linked to the ESP32 works on motion detection and measurement principles. This small device is made up of tiny internal components that can detect acceleration and velocity changes. When the sensor moves, its internal microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) elements, such as small springs or capacitors, respond to the acceleration forces acting on them. These movements generate electrical signals, which the ESP32 microcontroller measures and interprets. This sensor gives the user with every coordinate that the pet covers in every axis, which may be used to estimate acceleration, inclination, and so on.

Figure 5: ADXL345 Accelerometer Sensor

The figures above depict the MVP version of PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar, highlighting its key features such as real-time GPS tracking, activity monitoring, heart-rate monitoring, and the inclusion of an LED light. The ESP32 microcontroller enables seamless connectivity with smartphones, while the NEO-6M GPS module ensures precise location tracking. The figures provide a visual representation of PAWS' design and functionality, showcasing its potential as an innovative solution for pet owners.

Figure 6: MVP for PAWS

5.3. Testing and Outputs

This section explores the testing process and results from PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar's Minimum Viable Product (MVP) edition. The functionality, performance, and dependability of the collar were thoroughly tested in a variety of circumstances and environments. The testing process produces useful information on the precision of GPS tracking, the efficiency of accelerometer sensors, and the dependability of heart rate sensors. These results offer perceptions into PAWS' potential and act as a foundation for additional advancements and alterations. We can better understand how the MVP version of PAWS functions and its potential to improve the pet care experience by examining the testing findings.

The figures below illustrate the output readings of the sensors in the MVP version of PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar when programmed on the Arduino IDE. These readings provide valuable information about the pet's location, activity levels, and health parameters. Figure 1 displays the real-time GPS tracking output, showing the precise latitude and longitude coordinates of the pet's location. Figure 2 showcases the activity monitoring readings, indicating the duration, intensity, and types of activities the pet has engaged in. Figure 3 depicts the heart-rate monitoring output, providing a continuous measurement of the pet's heart rate. These figures demonstrate the effectiveness and accuracy of the sensors in capturing essential data for pet owners to monitor and ensure their pets' well-being.

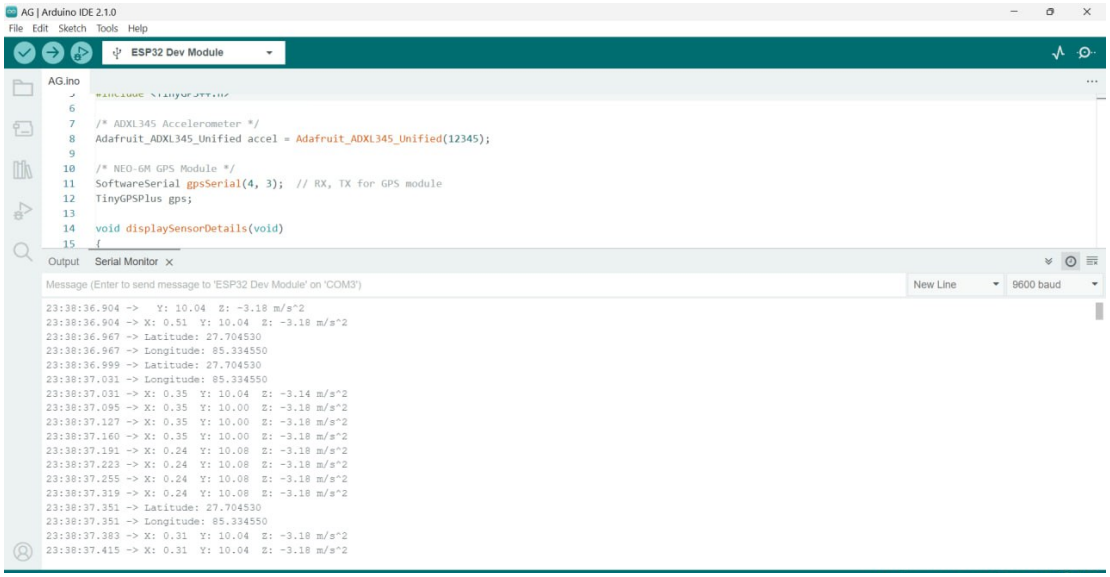

Figure 7: Reading from Accelerometer and GPS sensor in Serial Monitor

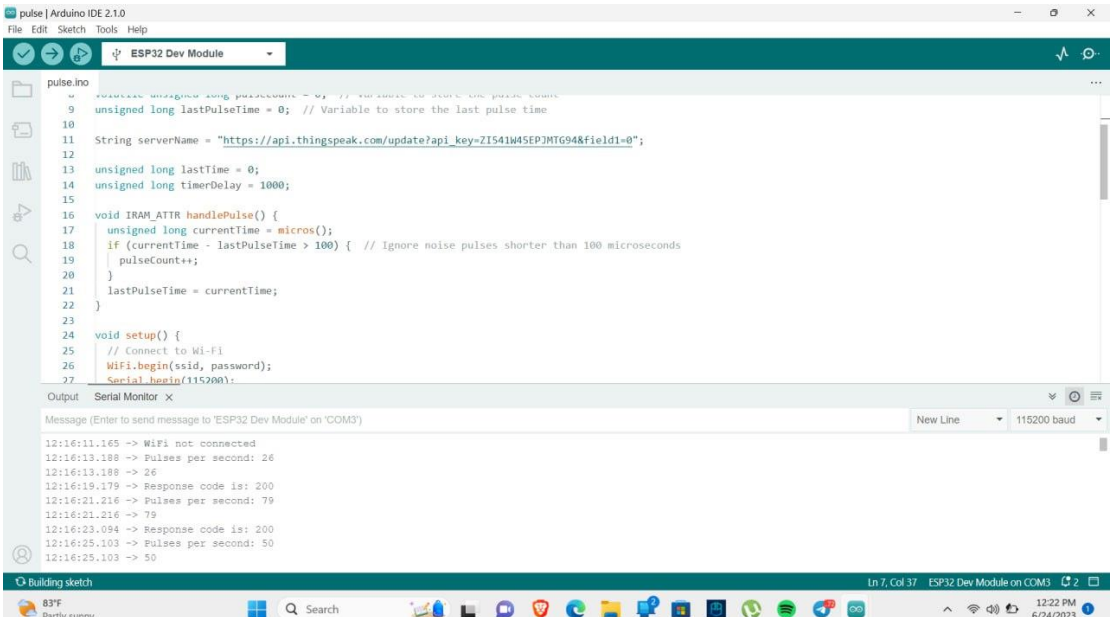

Figure 8: Reading from Pulse Sensor in Serial Monitor

6. Future Enhancement for Prototype

We have big plans for the future as we strive to keep PAWS better. One of our primary goals is to improve its usefulness by swapping out the device's existing heartbeat sensor for a PPG (Photoplethysmography) sensor, which has demonstrated promise in properly measuring vital signs on hairy creatures. This upgrade will make health monitoring more efficient and give pet owners insightful information about their pets' wellbeing. We also want to create a user-friendly PAWS interface app that will make it simple for pet owners to access and understand their pets' data. Additionally, we plan to integrate the app with vet care illness alert capabilities to make sure owners get timely information if any health issues develop.

To improve security and data management, we intend to incorporate a sophisticated database system within the app, securing critical pet information and providing a complete platform for owners to monitor their furry companions' health and overall security. Paws will continue to redefine pet care and increase the link between pets and their owners with these enhancements.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, PAWS - The Smart Pet Collar is a comprehensive solution that addresses the challenges faced by pet owners in tracking their pets' movements, monitoring their activity levels, and ensuring their safety. It stands out from other smart pet collars by combining GPS tracking, activity monitoring, and safety features into a single device. The MVP version of PAWS incorporates real-time GPS tracking, activity monitoring, heart-rate monitoring, and an inbuilt LED light. The technical architecture utilizes the ESP32 microcontroller and the NEO-6M GPS module for accurate tracking. Testing has demonstrated the functionality and reliability of PAWS. Future enhancements include upgrading to a PPG sensor, developing a user-friendly app interface, integrating vet care illness alerts, and implementing a sophisticated database system. PAWS offers peace of mind, improved pet care experiences, and strengthens the bond between pets and their owners.

8. References

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