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Requirements Document

Description of the Problem:

Team 6 is seeking to spread awareness among Stevens students about the benefits of keeping a duck as a pet. While the duck is the mascot of the school, most students have never considered keeping a duck as a pet, and instead resort to considering more popular pets such as dogs and cats. In addition, most students have little to no knowledge on the care necessary for a pet duck. There are currently no classes, organizations, or resources on campus for students who wish to learn more about the care of ducks. Existing websites and books on ducks tend to be convoluted, and could take many hours to master. The busy schedule of Stevens students prevents the investment of this time. In addition, students would need to seek out these books and resources on their own initiative, which they would only do if they already knew about and were considering a duck as a pet. The team will need to spread awareness through a widely accessible medium in order to reach a large percentage of students.

Solution:

To solve this awareness problem, we propose a solution consisting of several key criteria. We will build a website dedicated to spreading awareness about keeping a duck as a pet. The website must touch on the different kinds of ducks, the reasons ducks make great pets, how to take care of a pet duck, where to buy ducks, and testimonials of those who have pet ducks. The website shall be publicly accessible to any student or faculty member on campus. Our site must have a well-designed landing page in order to draw the attention of students, ensuring they explore other pages on our site before navigating away. The site should present a high level overview of pet duck ownership, so that only a small amount of time is necessary to absorb the information. Text shall be kept to a minimum, under two to three lines at a time, where possible. Pictures, and where applicable, videos, shall be included to increase user engagement with the site.

Constraints:

While implementing our solution, there will be several major constraints that will affect the project. The project has a final deadline in Week 14 of the CS146 course. All work must be completed on the project by then. The project team consists of 6 web programming students, who are just beginning to learn the technologies that will be used to construct the website. Since assistance from additional programmers is not allowed, these six students must be the only team members to work on the website. The inexperienced nature of the team means that the website created must be simple enough for a novice programmer to implement. There is no supplied budget for this project, so only free resources shall be used in the construction of the website. Because no team member has prior knowledge on ducks, the content placed on the website will be limited to information found in existing media, which will be limited by the unique nature of a keeping a duck as a pet. Finally, care must be taken to ensure that the pictures, video, information, and other materials used from outside sources do not violate any copyright restrictions or are used with permission.

Measurement of Success:

In our quest to inform and educate Stevens students on the benefits of a pet duck, we will measure our success using several key metrics. The website created must be free of any obvious errors or bugs. The website should consist of at least four completed and functional pages. The pages shall at a minimum cover the topics outlined in the solutions section of the document. When shown to a small sample of Stevens students, a majority must find the website to be both easy to interact with and well designed. The percentage of students who leave the site after visiting just the landing page should be no higher than 75%. A majority of students should also find the site to be both informative and concise at the same time, coming out of their brief visit to our site with increased knowledge of duck care. After visiting, they should then be able to have an intelligent conversation on why a duck may or may not make a good pet for them.