



NAME: Shelter Animals

DATE: November 21, 2021 3:16 AM

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY
A Machine Learning project aimed at predicting the duration animals will stay at a shelter based on various conditions.




IMPACT ON SOCIETY



There are over 600 million stray animals around the world. A large amount end up in shelters which try to find an accommodating home. However, because there's so many animals a lot of them end up getting euthanised simply because there's not enough space.

There's very little insight in how long it will take a certain animal to find a new home.


HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS



The law regarding animal euthanasia differs from country to country.


In most countries there is a customary waiting period. Some shelters already ignore this waiting period. If the knowledge is available that an animal is unlikely to be adopted that could be further encouragement to skip this waiting period.

PRIVACY




The technology does not register personal data. The data that is registered is regarding animals which do not fall under the GDPR. Therefore privacy should not be an issue.

HUMAN VALUES




The technology can be perceived as stigmatising when it is taken out of context of its intended use case. While my inherent belief is that all animals are equal, the technology imposes the view that some are 'worse' than others.

STAKEHOLDERS



- Animal Shelters
- Governments
- Animals
- Teachers
- Developer


DATA



There won't be an equal distribution of animal colors, races, types, states etc.


There will be factors that aren't taken into account in the data, such as the personnel and employees. There's also a human factor when it comes to adopting, meaning there will be a large factor of randomness.

INCLUSIVITY



The data collected was only from a certain American shelter in Austin, which is a no-kill shelter. Because of the adoptions are all from this region. People in other regions might have different preferences, meaning the data won't be as accurate.


TRANSPARENCY



The stakeholders will be told that the technology makes an estimation of how long it takes for an animal to get adopted. Because of randomness factors this does not have to be a proper representation of reality. It's very important that this is clear.


We don't go into technical details of the model.

SUSTAINABILITY



The deployed model will require both a front- and back-end server. Because it's going to be on a very small scale the energy usage should be minimal. Rather than running it on my local computer I can make use of a dedicated server.

FUTURE



Hard to adopt animals could be automatically promoted more on social media using an AI that puts together videos. The required employees and their schedules could be created based on the necessity.

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What is exactly the problem? Is it really a problem? Are you sure?

Can you exactly define what the challenge is? What problem (what 'pain') does this technology want to solve? Can you make a clear definition of the problem? What 'pain' does this technology want to ease? Whose pain? Is it really a problem? For who? Will solving the problem make the world better? Are you sure? The problem definition will help you to determine...


HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS



In which way can the technology be used to break the law or avoid the consequences of breaking the law?

Can you imagine ways that the technology can or will be used to break the law? Think about invading someone's privacy. Spying. Hurting people. Harassment. Steal things. Fraud/identity theft and so on. Or will people use the technology to avoid facing the consequences of breaking the law (using trackers to evade speed radars or using bitcoins to launder...


PRIVACY



Does the technology register personal data? If yes, what personal data?

If this technology registers personal data you have to be aware of privacy legislation and the concept of privacy. Think hard about this question. Remember: personal data can be interpreted in a broad way. Maybe this technology does not collect personal data, but can be used to assemble personal data. If the technology collects special personal data (like...

HUMAN VALUES



How is the identity of the (intended) users affected by the technology?

To help you answer this question think about sub questions like:

- Can the technology be perceived as stigmatising?
- Does the technology imply or impose a certain belief or world view?...

STAKEHOLDERS



Who are the main users/targetgroups/stakeholders for this technology? Think about the intended context by...

When thinking about the stakeholders, the most obvious one are of course the intended users, so start there. Next, list the stakeholders that are directly affected. Listing the users and directly affected stakeholders also gives an impression of the intended context of the technology.

...

DATA




Are you familiar with the fundamental shortcomings and pitfalls of data and do you take this sufficiently into...

There are fundamental issues with data. For example:

- Data is always subjective;
- Data collections are never complete;
- Correlation and causation are tricky concepts;
- Data collections are often biased;...


INCLUSIVITY



Does this technology have a built-in bias?

Do a brainstorm. Can you find a built-in bias in this technology? Maybe because of the way the data was collected, either by personal bias, historical bias, political bias or a lack of diversity in the people responsible for the design of the technology? How do you know this is not the case? Be critical. Be aware of your own biases.


TRANSPARENCY



Is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the technology works and how the business model works?

- Is it easy for users to find out how the technology works?
- Can a user understand or find out why your technology behaves in a certain way?
- Are the goals explained?
- Is the idea of the technology explained?
- Is the technology company transparent about the way their...


SUSTAINABILITY



In what way is the direct and indirect energy use of this technology taken into account?

One of the most prominent impacts on sustainability is energy efficiency. Consider what service you want this technology to provide and how this could be achieved with a minimal use of energy. Are improvements possible?

FUTURE



What could possibly happen with this technology in the future?

Discuss this quickly and note your first thoughts here.

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