How to Use PetInsights

User Instruction Manual

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Preface

PetInsights is a crowd-sourced mobile application that helps support local animal shelters for temporary and long term adoptions. PetInsights focuses on the adopters, and provides many features to help ensure that the adopter is finding the right pet for them. PetInsights is unique to other pet finder apps in that it allows its users to provide their own feedback to the pets available, thereby allowing users to get the personal pet experience even without personally interacting with the pet. Those who have the opportunity to interact with the pets, such as shelter volunteers, visitors, and foster families, can leave comments on the pet's behavior and personality. In turn, this valuable information helps adoption seekers to make a better adoption choice that fits their personality and lifestyle.

In addition to helping adoption seekers, PetInsights provides users direct access to shelter needs and volunteering opportunities. They can choose to take care of pets onsite by volunteering and actively taking care of the pets there. Users can also choose to donate money or choose to buy products that a particular shelter requires. Not only does this benefit the shelters and organizations involved, but it also helps users give back to the community.

Searching for a Pet

Choosing Filters

Upon entering your location on the welcome screen, you will be directed to the main search page. On this page, you are presented with a general search bar, followed by search tiles with already-set filters such as Cats, Small Dogs, Exotic Animals, Energetic Pets, etc.

By clicking the general search bar, a filter page will pop up with various filters to select from, such as Pet Type, Age Range, Gender, and Lifestyle. You may also choose to search by keywords that can be typed. Press enter on the keyboard before entering the next keyword. If you wish not to select any filters, proceed straight to the "Go →" button.
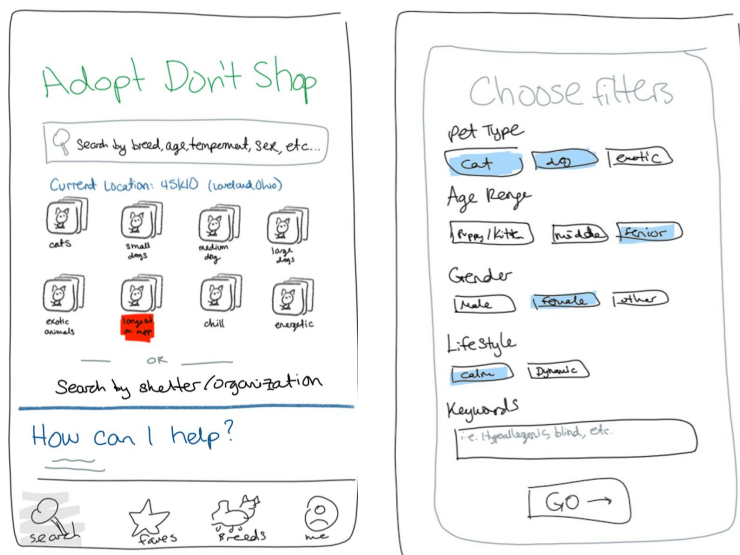
Search by Tile View

Upon hitting "Go →" on the Filters page, you will be automatically presented with a list of the pets available based on your preferences. On the top bar, you may edit your Location, filters, or switch the Map View. The Tile view presents information on each pet such as Name, Age, Status (Fostered vs. Sheltered), breed, and distance from your inputted distance. You are also presented with sample images of each pet, along with recent comments left behind by other users.

By clicking on the tile of the pet, you will be brought to the associated pet page. (See Navigating the Pet Page).
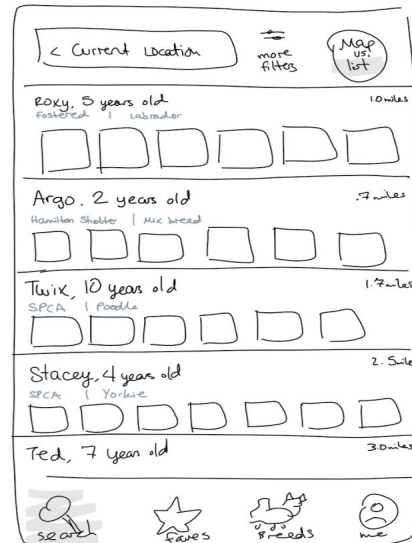

Search By Map

Upon hitting "Go →" on the Filters page, you will automatically be navigated to the Tile page of available pets. To access the Map View, simply click on the map icon on the top right of the screen (see below). On this page, you have the option to change your location as well as your filters. Nearby pets are clustered together, and upon zooming in or clicking on the cluster, you are able to distinguish various locations of pets. Pets that are in the same shelter and match your filters will remain clustered together. Clicking on this cluster brings up the pets' information and allows for further clicking to view which pet interests you. The pet information box includes name, age, breed, images, sample comments, and distance. If you wish to see more information, click on the "see more" button to be brought to the pet's page.
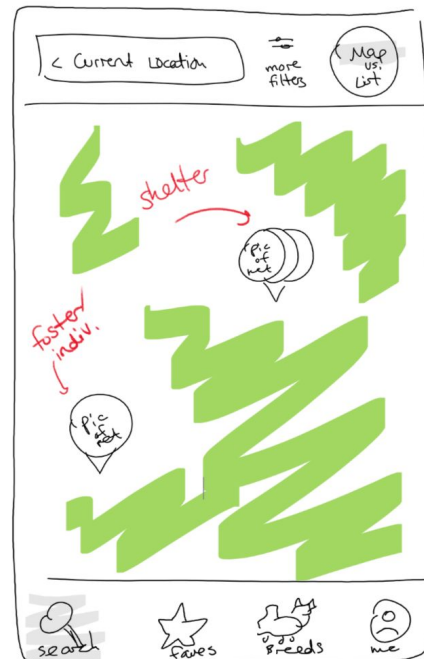
Navigating the Pet Page

Upon selecting the pet from the tile search view, or the "see more" button from the map search view, you will be brought to the individual pet's page. This page has the following Layout;

1. Name and Associated Foster or Organization in the Top Header
2. Name, Breed, Gender, and Age followed by sample images of the pet, along with an option to favorite the pet.
   a. If you wish to add the pet to your favorites, simply click on the star icon. If you do not already have an account and/or are not yet logged in, you will be prompted with logging in. For more information, please see the **Favoriting Pets** section.
   b. If you wish to view more images of the pet, simply click on the "see more" image following the sample images. You may return to the pet page by hitting the back button on the new images page.
3. Following the sample images, you are presented with a content bar containing the options to 1) Leave a Comment, 2) Add a photo, and 3) Favorite the pet.
   a. Please see the **Leaving Feedback on a Pet** section for options 1 and 2.
   b. Upon pressing the Favorite Pet button, please see the **Favoriting Pets** section.

4. Below the options to leave comments and media on the pet, you will find comments on the pet. You may search the comments by keyword.
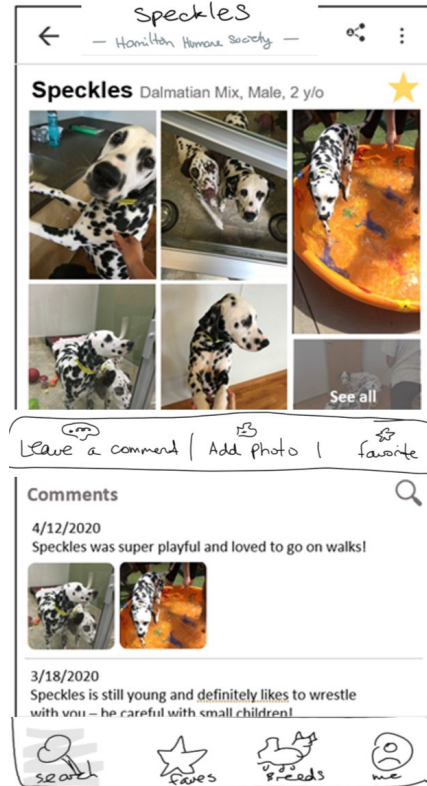
Leaving feedback on a Pet

Users may choose to leave a comment on a pet or pets and upload photos and videos that help provide more information on the pet's personality. This functionality is found within the specific pet's page.

Uploading Images and Videos

On the pet page, upon pressing the Add a Photo button, you will be presented with the option to upload or take photos/videos of the pet. With each photo chosen, you may optionally add a caption.

Leaving Comments

On the pet page, upon pressing the Leave a Comment option, you will be directed to an input page where you can leave your comment as well as add photos or videos of the pet. Depending on the shelter, you may be required to enter an access code to be able to upload the feedback. This access code prevents spam comments.
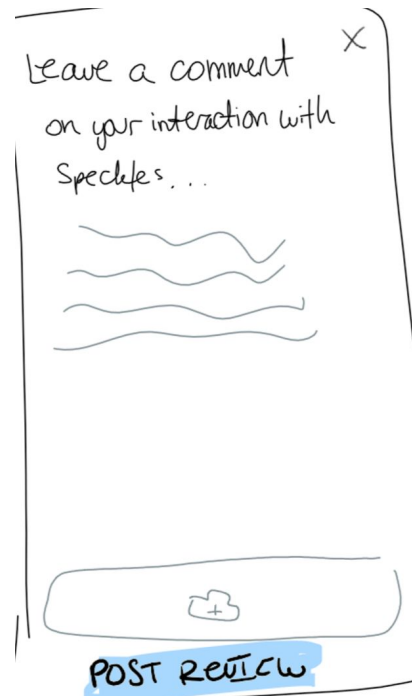
Creating an Account

There are some features on PetInsights limited to registered users. Users will be prompted to create an account whenever they try to use any of these limited features.
These include: creating a profile with preferences and favoriting pets.

To register, users will have to provide an email ID and select a username and password of choice.
Usernames and passwords must be alphanumeric and passwords must have a minimum of 8 characters, while usernames can have a minimum of 3.
They will also have to sign off an agreement saying they are above the age of 13.

Creating an account allows the user to update their profile, which includes a profile picture, favorited pets, volunteering and/or adoption interests and more.

Favoriting Pets

PetInsights allows users to "favorite" pets they have come across in order to see later. This is beneficial in cases where they have specific search filters on and might not remember when they come back to the app to look for the same pet again. This is similar to bookmarking a page in a book.
This feature is limited to registered users.

View Favorited Pets

If the user is registered, they will be able to view a list of all their favorite pets. This list references all the pets they have "favorited": clicked the heart button for, while using the app. The user can access this list through their profile page

Favorite a New Pet

In order to favorite a pet, the user has to click into the detailed information card about the pet and click on the heart button. Filling out the heart button will save it to the database as a "favorited" pet for the user.

The action of clicking the heart button looks like the following screens:
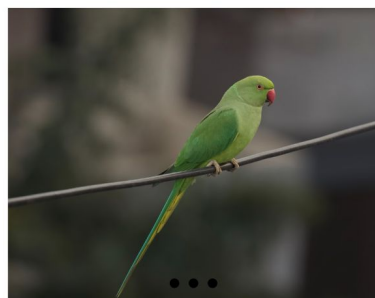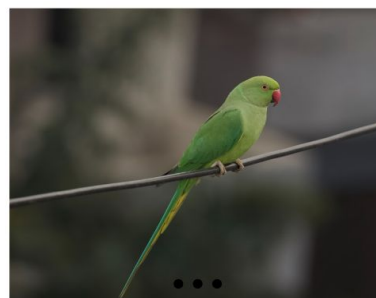
Exploring Breeds

When the user is interested in a specific breed of dogs, for instance, a poodle or a labrador, there will be an optional new search filter. This search filter will show the options of different breeds. If a particular filter is chosen, the user will get to see if that particular breed is available at the shelter they are looking at or if it is available at a different shelter.

Finding how you can help shelter organizations

Volunteer and Foster

There are many volunteer opportunities for users who wish to contribute and give back by taking care of these pets. Such volunteer opportunities can be seen on the different shelter websites - users can sign up for different times and meet a representative who will direct them to their responsibilities.

For users who wish to foster animals, they can access the shelter links provided in our shelter information section. These users can sign up for fostering directly with the shelter organization after which a shelter representative will reach out to the user.

Donate

Users can donate to their chosen website by accessing their donation page via our shelter information section. Users will be able to donate money, food supplies, toys and cleaning supplies. They can also donate by directly purchasing supplies listed on the shelter organization's donation page which has all the items a particular shelter is in need of.