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Part A: Individual Contribution

As part of our senior design project, I was responsible for designing and implementing major features that shaped “FurrFect” into a functional and user-centered platform. In particular, I focused on building the Pet Social Media Feed, including likes, comments, and the follow system, which required not just front-end logic but also careful handling of real-time user interactions on the backend. Drawing from my coursework in User Interface Design, Web Design, and Database Development, I ensured that our design was both intuitive and technically efficient. I also integrated the Pet Adoption Listings via API, ensuring the listings updated in real time with accurate pet profiles. My previous co-op experience with REST APIs and backend systems came in handy here, I knew how to connect external services reliably using FastAPI and Node.js, and structure data using MongoDB. In my opinion, this integration brought real-world relevance to our project, and added significant value to users seeking to adopt.

This project wasn’t without challenges. I had to troubleshoot issues like optimizing our JWT-based authentication system for a seamless login experience and ensuring the responsive design worked well across screen sizes. These hurdles strengthened my debugging and performance-testing skills. I also contributed to setting up AWS for hosting, making sure deployment was clean and scalable. What I learned most was how to think like both a developer and a user - balancing technical architecture with ease of use. I pushed myself to document every module and follow coding standards to maintain clarity for future iterations. This project deepened my skills in full-stack development and reaffirmed how passionate I am about building data-driven, meaningful applications that impact lives; in this case of project “FurrFect”, you guessed it right, it’s none other than the ‘pets and their people’...

Part B: Group Accomplishments

As a team (I and Nishit Grover), we created a holistic platform that combines pet social networking with wellness and adoption support. From the Pet Health & Appointment Management system to the Veterinary Services Finder and Smart Notifications, each feature was thoughtfully designed to solve real-world problems faced by pet owners. I and Nishit contributed equally, there was no “one lead developer”; we both led different areas and coordinated often to align architecture and design decisions. I focused more on user engagement tools and integration of APIs, while Nishit handled user authentication, backend logic, and expert advice features. We also collaborated closely on the Community Forum and future implementation planning, like ideas for AI-based pet matching and IoT pet tracker integration...

This project taught me the power of balanced collaboration. We shared code reviews, design discussions, and workload distribution without ever needing to “assign” effort. I feel that it was intuitive and fair. There were moments when our visions differed, especially around UI layout or data schema design, but those discussions led to stronger results. In my opinion, our teamwork was the reason we were able to build such a robust system with multiple modules functioning harmoniously. No one team member deserves special recognition, in my opinion, we both contributed equally and consistently. In fact, this was one of the few team experiences I’ve had where trust, accountability, and mutual respect were evident from start to finish. Last but not the least, for us, “FurrFect” was more than just a class project, it was our shared vision for a healthier, happier pet community...