PET ADOPTION

Authors:

Karina Frasco

Rahul Janardhanan

Michelle Wu

Tina Elling

Rosa Sanchez

Date:

October 2nd, 2017

Research Plan Outline

Topic: A Mobile App that helps users to adopt pets that are in need of a home.

System Concept Statement

**System Description:** "Adopt a Paw" is an app that will educate and guide 1st-time pet owners through the process of adopting a new pet. A successful experience for both pet owners and the pet will allow for better-matched adoptions and better-educated pet owner. The bond that will be created between the pet owner and the pet will allow them to have a real home with the care and attention they need. The system will pull information from local shelters that will provide bios, stories, and medical information about pets that are up for adoption. The app will consist of several sections to help educate the user on the responsibilities, cost, and care for their new pet. This app will facilitate the ability to match the user with a pet that fits their personality, lifestyle, and also have an area for the user to understand the process of adopting a new pet. The issue of stray animals seems to be getting worse, it's goal for this app is to educate people, help them understand the responsibilities and challenges of being a good pet owner, to lower the chance of abandonment, and help those abandoned animals be adopted into good homes.

**End-User Profile:** Users that are 1st-time pet owners will be educated and obtaining information of how to take care of their pet, and gain all the knowledge needed to have their pet happy and at home. "Adopt a Paw" will be within the U.S. and help those pets that have lost a home, shelter, or even a family.

**Solution:** Our goal is to make sure every pet goes to the right hands (i.e., best suited homes) and understand customer's environment, whether there are other pets in the home, children and more. These are the important factors that are to be considered when adopting a pet. "Adopt a Paw" will have all the information that is needed. Some major problems that can be solved by this particular app are:

- Adoption helps stop pet overpopulation
- Adoption saves lives
- Adoption often costs less
- Adoption will provide shelter, food, and etc.
- Reducing animals being abandoned

Purpose / Goal of the Study

The goal of this study is to understand the challenges a 1st time pet owner faces when deciding to own a pet, how to adopt a pet, and how to care for the pet after adoption.

Guiding Research Questions

- What motivations are driving the decision to own a pet
- What misconceptions do users have about owning a pet
- Does the user understand the responsibilities of being a pet owner (puppy through adult; healthy and sick), and care for the pet? (vet, health, food, training, and etc.)
- Does the user understand the cost (upfront and lifetime of pet), and does their lifestyle accommodate with owning a pet?
- Will the user and family (if applicable) be able to adjust to a new pet or understand the adjustments

Methodology

• Secondary Research:

We will use online journal articles and previous research to gather the information about the reason why people abandon their dog and the cost to take care of their dog. Moreover, what do people except when they want to adopt a dog and what makes a successful adoptions.
To know better and provide as many situations for a potential user to be mentally prepared. This research will help us to defines the guiding research question as follows:

1. What motivations are driving the decision to own a pet?
2. What misconceptions do users have about owning a pet?
3. Does the user understand the cost (upfront and lifetime of pet), and does their lifestyle accommodate with owning a pet?

Topic: Pet Abandonment
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2226089/RSPCA-Over-100-pets-abandoned-day-Britain-families-longer-afford-feed-them.html
Topic: The Ecology and Economics of Dog Overpopulation and the Human Costs of Addressing the Problem
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FB%3AHUEC.0000015213.66094.06?LI=true

Topic: Successful and Unsuccessful PET Adoptions
http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.2466/pr0.1992.70.2.547
Topic: The Pet Connection: An Attachment Perspective
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10615-012-0405-2

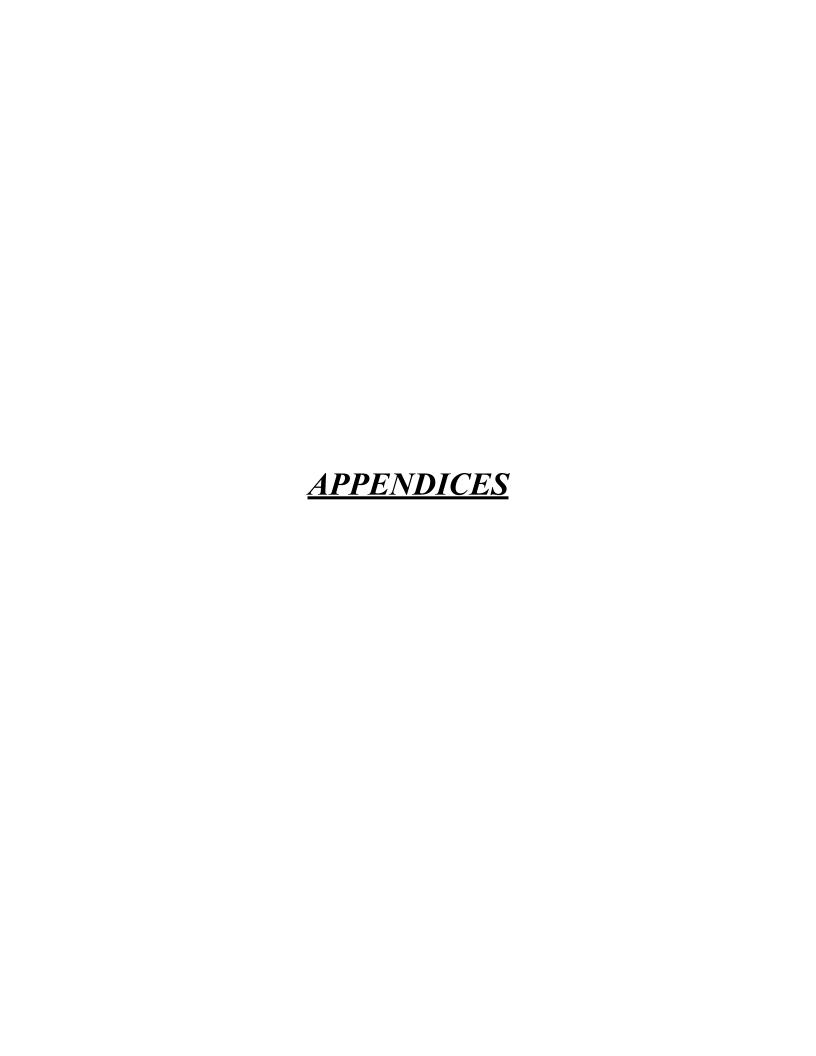## • *Inquiry Research:*

Interviews (face-to-face)
- Recruiting participants will be done at place of work and at a local shelter
- Notes (raw data) from interviews will be will be paraphrased and synthesized. That data will be used to create an affinity chart to flush out the commonalities and organize them into groupings based on relationships

This research will help us define the guiding research question as follows:
1. What motivations are driving the decision to own a pet
2. Does the user understand the responsibilities of being a pet owner (puppy through adult; healthy and sick), and care for the pet? (vet, health, food, training, and etc.)
3. Does the user understand the cost (upfront and lifetime of pet), and does their lifestyle accommodate with owning a pet?
4. Will the user and family (if applicable) be able to adjust to a new pet or understand the adjustments

Participants

- Two individuals who work at a local shelter. Plan on stopping by a shelter and speak with a Supervisor to see if they are willing to participate in a brief interview. This will help to understand misconceptions related to pet ownership
- Four to five participants who do not own pets. Plan is to recruit people from work, school, and other various place and ask if they are willing to participate in a brief interview. This will give insight to the following research questions:
  ○ What motivations are driving the decision to own a pet
  ○ Does the user understand the responsibilities of being a pet owner (puppy through adult; healthy and sick), and care for the pet? (vet, health, food, training, and etc.)
  ○ Does the user understand the cost (upfront and lifetime of pet), and does their lifestyle accommodate with owning a pet?
  ○ Will the user and family (if applicable) be able to adjust to a new pet or understand the adjustments

APPENDICES

Appendix A:

Schedule

Date	Type of Research	Progress	Note
10/3 - 10/5	Secondary Research	All done	
10/6 - 10/7	Interview		For Shelter
10/8 - 10/9	Interview		For 1st Time Potential Pet Owners
10/10 - 10/12	Interview	All done	Converge and Analyze the results

Appendix B:

Test Materials

While conducting these interviews, there will be a scrum master present to obtain all notes possible, and will be recording the interview for more detailed information that we might oversee.

Interview Script:

Hunt Statement

We will be conducting research on why people decide to obtain a pet, their perceived responsibilities of pet ownership, and their knowledge of the adoption.

Intro For Participates

Hi my name is **STUDENT** and I'm a student at DePaul. For my human computer interaction class, we are conducting interviews to learn what people know about pet adoption and ownership. Specifically related to dogs. I have some questions I'd like to ask you about this subject. Would you be willing to participate in answering some questions? There are no right or wrong answers as I am looking for your personal perspective on the subject.

Please be as detailed as possible.

Interview Questions For 1st Time Potential Pet Owners
Participate:
Q: What motivations are driving your decision to own a pet?

Q: Can you tell me some responsibilities of being a pet owner? From a ppuppy to an adult? And/Or From being healthy & sick?(puppy through adult; healthy and sick)
Q: Can you tell me what you think the costs are of owning a pet? (upfront and lifetime of pet)
Q: How does your current lifestyle accommodate owning a pet?
Q: How will you and your family (if applicable) be able to adjust to a new pet or understand the adjustments?
Q: Can you tell me what you would need to know to properly care for your pet? (find vet, health, food, training, other general care)

Q: Does the user understand the adoption process

Intro For Shelter

Hi my name is **STUDENT** and I'm a student at DePaul. For my human computer interaction class, we are conducting interviews to learn misconceptions people have about pet adoption and ownership. Specifically related to dogs. I have some questions I'd like to ask you about this subject. Would you be willing to participate in answering some questions? There are no right or wrong answers as I am looking for your professional perspective on the subject. Please be as detailed as possible.

Interview Questions For Shelter
Participate:
Q: What misconceptions do users have about owning a pet?
Q: What is the process of vetting and matching potential pet owners?(what are "red flags" that tell a person is not suitable?)
Q: Can you tell me about the adoption process?

Q: Can you tell about what makes a successful adoption?

Q: With there being a lot of stray animals and few homes, can you tell me what solutions this facility and other like it, are doing to combat the problem? (probe into educating the owner)