

DIT045 Exemplar 2: Pet Manager

Fall 2017

Summary

Having a pet is a goal of a stable and happy life. Pets reduce stress and comfort us. However, most of us lead busy lives requiring us to be out of the house for most of the day for school, work or social activities. How to help ensure the health and safety of your precious pets when you are not at home? Can we make sure they are eating and drinking? Track accidents and household damage? Be notified of significant noises such as barking, growling or hissing? It may be important to monitor such things not only for the health and safety of the owner but for the happiness of neighbours and nearby pet owners. What if our pets are elderly or sick? Can we track their health, medication or veterinary visits? What if our pets have special environment needs (e.g., hot, cold, wet, dry), can we monitor and ensure the environment is stable, even from outside the home? Can we help to ensure pet owner peace of mind? How can software and technology be used to create a product to help to solve these problems?

More Detail

Existing tools like [dogmonitorapp](#) and [cam2pet](#) use cameras and other devices to help to monitor pets (particularly dogs) from outside the home. This is helpful and can satisfy part of our requirements. What other features and functions would be useful to satisfy the stated problem? How can we monitor health, damage, sound, and other important pet aspects? As the product will likely involve a remote connection to a home, privacy and security are important. What if a home is shared? How will the privacy of all occupants be ensured (e.g., you try to monitor your cat but unintentionally monitor your roommate)? What if pet ownership is shared? What if friends/family have access to the pet, e.g., to take it for walks or feed it? Can we ensure that monitoring doesn't alarm or cause stress to our pets? That is does not take up too much power, data, or other resources? How much optionality should the software include?

Novelty

It's fine to take inspiration from existing software and tools, but the requirements for your products should finally describe something which is sufficiently unique and could be a potential competitor to existing applications. In this domain, one idea is to try to focus on a particular type of pet (e.g., cats, snakes), or a pet with particular needs (blind, sick), this is one way to differentiate your product from existing software.

Further Information

This description is intended to give a good start on developing requirements for the potential system. It's possible that further information or clarifications may be needed in order to model and specify the requirements. You can ask the various stakeholders involved in the domain questions using the discussion forum on GUL. Find the discussion forum for this exemplar. Ask a clarifying question, making sure that you indicate which stakeholder you are asking. The "stakeholder" will provide you an answer. Answers and responses are shared between all teams working with this exemplar.