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Section AC / BC | Assignment 2f
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Design Check-In

Task Review

1. Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization and decrease loneliness of own dog

Quinn is a full-time undergraduate student who just came to study at the University of Washington and moved into an apartment in Capitol Hill. Quinn has a 1.5-year-old Australian Shepherd named Presley. They used to have close access to a dog park in the International District, which had a regular group of dogs on weekends and weeknights. Since moving, Presley has not met any dog friends because there is no dog park nearby and Quinn does not own a car. Quinn has noticed some signs of loneliness such as chewed slippers and excessive barking when he comes home. To combat this, Quinn has been taking Presley on walks in the neighborhood but Presley gets easily overwhelmed in meeting other dogs on walks. Because of this, Quinn actively avoids other owners and dogs on walks. Quinn wants to stop avoiding other dogs but is not sure how to gauge whether an upcoming interaction will be positive. However, he wants Presley to have a regular group of friends as he did before and is slowly reintegrating Presley into the Capitol Hill dog community by walking near other owners and dogs more frequently.

2. Avoiding improper or provoking interactions from strangers with dogs

Olivia is a former research assistant and experienced dog owner, who owns a 2-year-old mixed Chihuahua named Coco. Coco, as a young and small dog, is nervous around people and other bigger dogs. However, every time Olivia takes a walk with Coco in the neighborhood, strangers on the walkway come over and try to pet Coco. Coco becomes very nervous, panics, and barks when strangers approach and stare at her. For example, one time Coco got so scared that she slipped through her harness and ran away from the other person. Olivia had to find Coco and change the type of harness to a more secure one. Therefore, Olivia tries to avoid walking her dogs near strangers. She thinks people around her neighborhood are knowledgeable about dogs, but she prefers others to ask for permission before petting the dogs because of her dogs' nervousness.

3. Expose dog to large groups of people (secondary: reduce over-excitement)

Adrian is a computer science lecturer at the University of Washington who owns a 2-year-old 100lb Saint Bernard named Eeyore. During finals week, Adrian likes to bring Eeyore to the Quad on campus to provide his students with an opportunity to de-stress before exams. Adrian and Eeyore arrive in the afternoon by Light Rail and quickly gather a crowd of eager students in the Quad. Eeyore always becomes very excited when engaging with students, especially with his former dog watcher, who is a TA of Adrian's. Eeyore tends to jump on his dog watcher and overwhelm some students. Adrian currently tries to calm Eeyore by grabbing him and being assertive. Over time, Eeyore adjusts to the crowd of students and calms down.

4. Avoiding unfriendly or awkward interactions between dog owners

Louis is a 25-year-old DX Arts researcher and grad student that owns a 4-year-old terrier named Little. Louis and Little both live in a first-floor apartment 20 minutes from the UW. On one occasion, Little was relieving himself in the front yard and another dog approached Little. This dog acted out very aggressively toward Little, which caused Little to negatively react and aggressively bark and lunge toward the other dog. This resulted in the other owner threatening Little and Louis. Thus, Louis is now hesitant to interact with and approach other owners when going on walks. Moreover, he does not really like to ask another owner whether their other dog is friendly or not, since that can lead to awkwardness between the two. Louis wants to avoid these negative situations with the owner and to be able to walk his dog safely with less worry about unsafe/uncomfortable interactions in the future.

5. Reducing territorial behaviors of own dogs

Molly is a retired professor who owns two small, mixed-breed dogs aged 13 and 2 named Muppet and Missy, respectively. Every day in the morning, she lets both of her dogs out in the backyard to relieve themselves and leaves the backyard door open so that the dogs are able to come in and out of the house as they please. However, she's aware that her dogs tend to bark aggressively when other people or dogs walk by the backyard fence, which stresses other dogs and owners. She wants to try to curb this territorial behavior especially since they live near a park that is frequented by many dog owners. Currently, whenever she hears barking, she calls both dogs home by name and rewards them with treats to distract them. She knows she is only rewarding her dogs' behavior of returning home when called, which does not address the territorial behavior directly but she is not sure how to reduce the barking and aggression.

6. Identifying compatible dogs as a permanent companion for current dog

Abby is an avid embroiderer who owns a mixed rat terrier, Joan. Abby is living with her husband and two daughters in Seattle. They are planning to adopt another dog to accompany Joan. Joan is very shy and doesn't get along with many dogs since she was isolated as a puppy due to her disease. Abby takes Joan to the pet shelter to get in touch with other dogs to find the best partner. Joan needs to smell and interact with all the dogs in the shelter even though there are some types of dogs that she clearly doesn't feel comfortable around. Abby wishes Joan doesn't have to go through that and wishes that they knew what types of dogs Joan would or would not get along well with before visiting the pet shelter. Eventually, after a long time of selection, Joan finds her favorite buddy Lola, who's a Corgi. Joan likes to spend more time next to Lola compared to other dogs and they keep playing with each other. Now Lola has been in her new family for a year.

Initial Designs

Design 1: Mobile Playdate App

This location-based phone application focuses on community building by connecting dog owners and their dogs to each other within the same neighborhood. The idea is similar to human dating apps, except the idea is focused on helping nearby dogs meet each other by setting up playdates. Thus, the profile is built around the dog primarily with information about the owner as a secondary addition, so that owners know who they are communicating with. Moreover, the design encourages two different types of friendships: "casual" dog friendships (through playdates) and long term companionships (by compiling information of the dog's friends and sending it to nearby shelters to generate a list of possible companions if the owner wants to adopt).

Task 1: Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization
Participants will be shown profiles of nearby dogs and owners (based on distance settings) and choose if they would like to communicate further with the other dog owner by adding/friending the profile. The other owner is notified of the "add" and can view the profile and decide whether to add back or not. If both participants match, they can message in app to potentially set up a playdate.
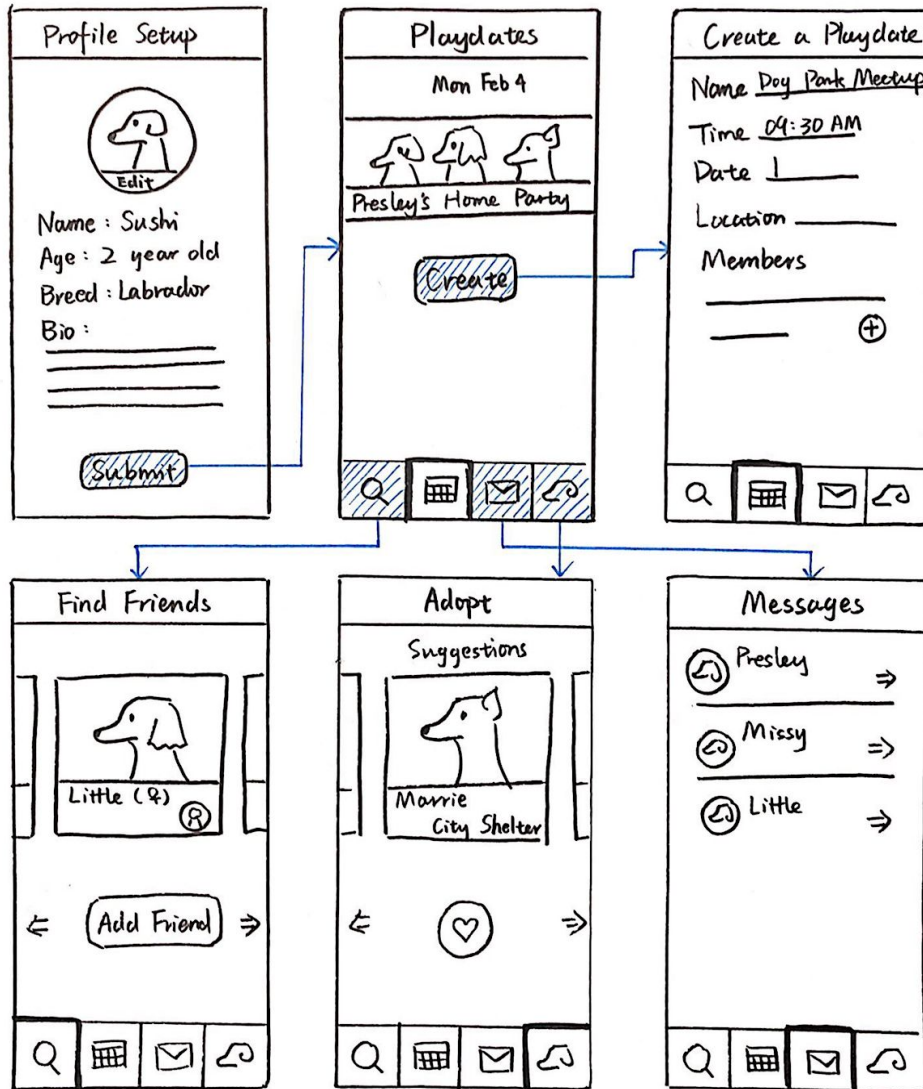
Task 3: Get exposure to large groups of people
Participants can create group chats including multiple friends to set up a larger dog playdate, thus, exposing their dog to larger group situations. People can also create public or private events to attract a larger crowd.

Task 4: Avoid improper/awkward interactions with owners
The app allows a straightforward way for dog owners who are interested in setting up dog playdates to find one another. Messaging through the app provides a way to set up initial contact and communication to lessen awkward in-person owner interaction without giving away private information (ie. phone number, address).
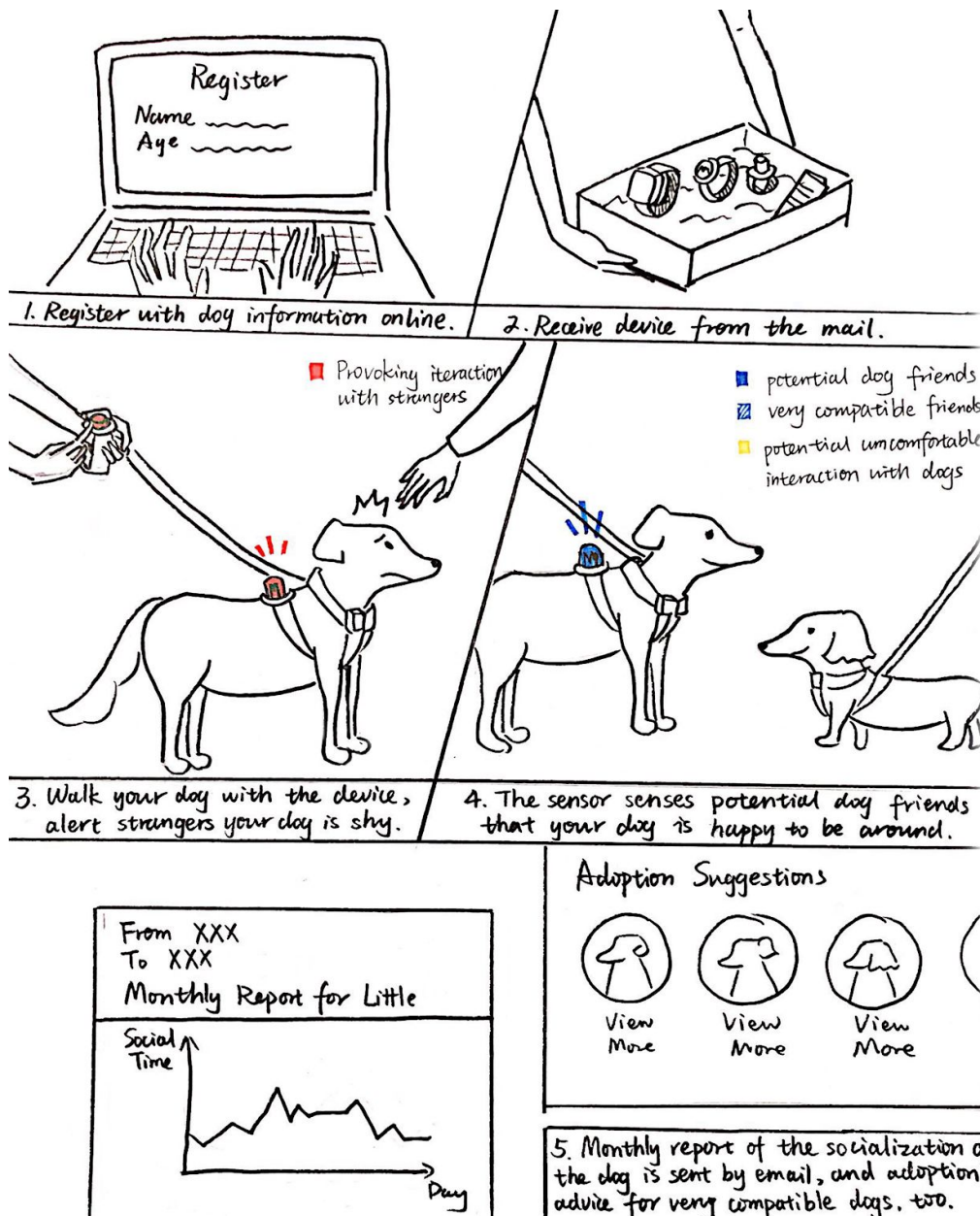
Task 6: Identify long-term compatible dogs
If a participant desires, they can view a pool of potential companions filtered by a dog's current friend list data. the design will allow an owner to view profiles one by one and "add" a dog to a list of companions they like. This will not notify the shelter but rather provide the owner with the dog and shelter contact information, so that the owner can decide whether to move forward. The design may also notify the owner when a dog is adopted.

Design 2: Collar/Leash Wearable

This wearable technology aims to identify and notify participants of the compatibility of two dogs on walks. The design will incorporate three attachable components: a device that detects the dog's mood that can be attached to the bottom of the harness, a LED light that can be attached on the top of the harness, and a button on the owner's leash wristband. Information about the dog (behaviors, likes, friendliness, etc.) is registered online beforehand and stored in the device, so that when two dogs pass by one another their information is exchanged. The device can then determine whether they are compatible based on the information and the dogs' mood. The result will be shown by a LED light, with different colors signaling approachability of the dog. At the end of the month, the user will receive a monthly report summarizing their dog's interactions on walks (i.e. how many dogs it has interacted with, what kinds of dogs it gets along with, etc.).

1. Register with dog information online.
2. Receive device from the mail.
3. Walk your dog with the device, alert strangers your dog is shy.
4. The sensor senses potential dog friends that your dog is happy to be around.
5. Monthly report of the socialization of the dog is sent by email, and adoption advice for very compatible dogs, too.

Provoking interaction with strangers
potential dog friends
very compatible friends
potential uncomfortable interaction with dogs

From XXX
To XXX
Monthly Report for Little
Social Time
Day

Adoption Suggestions
View More
View More
View More

Task 1: Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization
When two dogs enjoy each others company, the lights will turn blue; as a bond grows, the lights begin to flash blue. Data will be exchanged between the two dogs devices and compiled as part of a monthly socialization report emailed to each dog owner.

Task 2: Avoiding improper or provoking interactions from strangers with dogs
When an owner senses that their dog is stressed, they can press the button on their leash wristband to flash the light red to signify others to stop approaching. This is commonly used as a warning, and strangers may recognize this and avoid the dog.

Task 4: Avoiding unfriendly or awkward interactions between dog owners
The LED lights will outwardly display how each dog is feeling. When a dog owner is approaching another dog, they can choose to recognize potentially problematic situations earlier on. A yellow light signifies to the owners that the dogs may not be compatible, thus they can avoid provoking or uncomfortable situations.
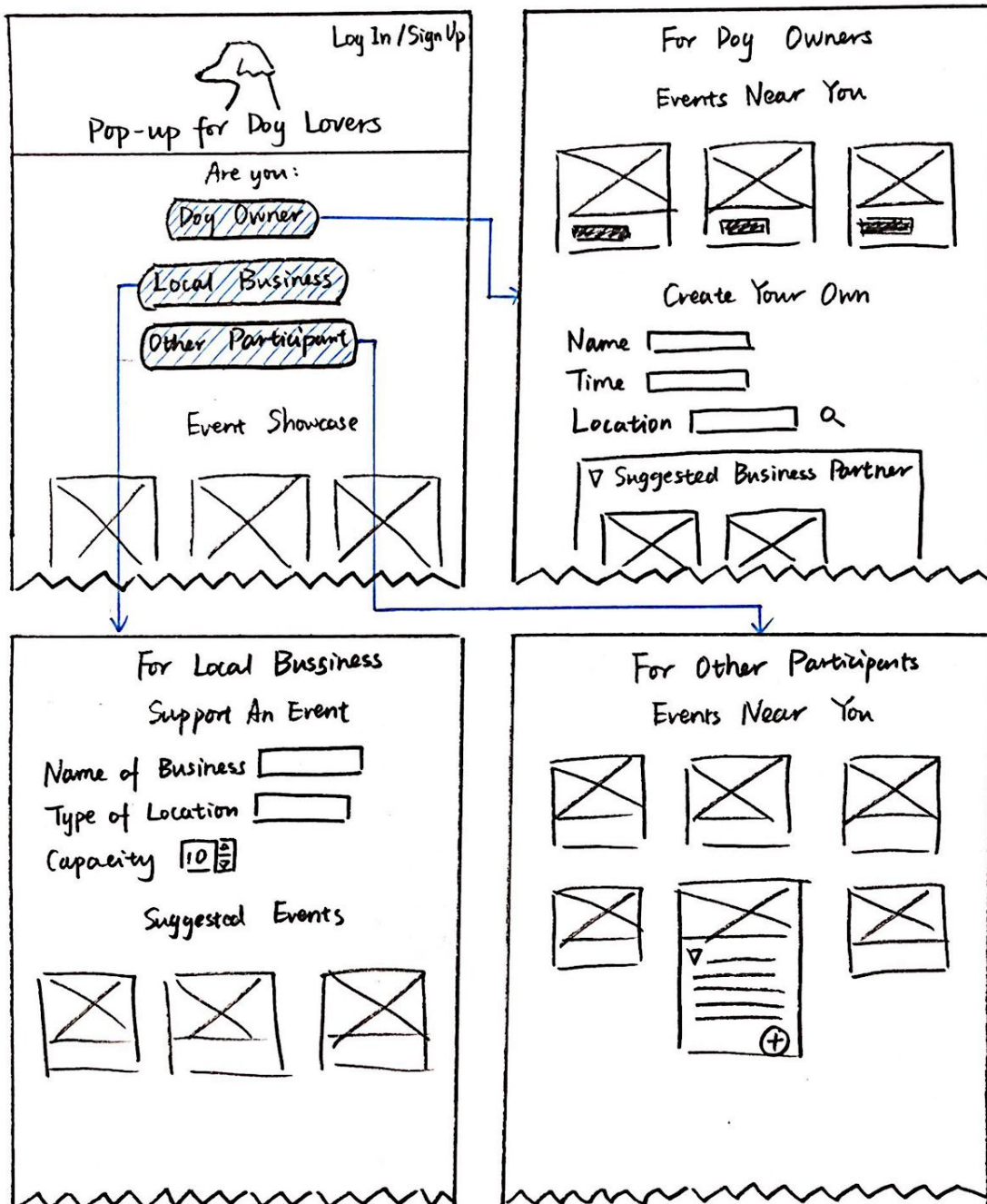
Task 6: Identifying compatible dogs as a permanent companion for current dog
Compiled data about the dog's socialization activity will be sent to the owner through a monthly email. The owner will be able to see how many dogs their dog interacted with -- without revealing private information about other

dogs and their dog owners. After compiling enough data, the report will include certain types of dogs that are compatible with the owner's dog, such as certain breeds, sizes and personalities.

Design 3: Pop-up Event Scheduler Website

This website will provide a medium for dog owners and dog lovers to connect and build community. Every two weeks, a pop-up event will be held in a different Seattle neighborhood. The first week involves registered participants suggesting places and voting to create events that can be tailored to certain types of dogs by personality. The design also allows for the community to connect with dog owners by allowing neighborhood businesses to offer their space for events. During the event, dog owners and attendees can discuss the dogs while dogs play with one another or receive attention from other attendees.

Task 1: Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization
Dog owners who want their dogs to meet new dogs can choose to join an event in a particular Seattle neighborhood. Because it's a pop-up event that occurs every two weeks, dog and owner can have more exposure to different owner-dog pairs and communities. This leaves autonomy to the owner and their dog to decide who they get along with and who to keep in contact with.

Task 2: Avoiding improper or provoking interactions from strangers with dogs
For all non-dog-owner attendees, they will be required to sign an agreement with all the restrictions to prevent the improper/provoking interactions with dogs. If the attendees violate the restrictions, they will be banned from the website and not be able to attend other events.

Task 3: Expose dog to large groups of people
Depending on location, some event sizes will be restricted to a limited number of dogs and regular attendees. Thus, owners who desire their dogs to be exposed to large groups of people can select large events, or even start with small events and work their way up to large events.

Task 4: Avoiding unfriendly or awkward interactions between dog owners
Since all the dog owners coming to the event will have the same purpose of helping their dogs to socialize, this will hopefully reduce initial awkward interactions and facilitate easier conversations between owners. In addition, as participants register for an event, statistics will be displayed about the types of dogs that are registered, so participants can be aware of the event dynamics.