

## 2g: Design Review

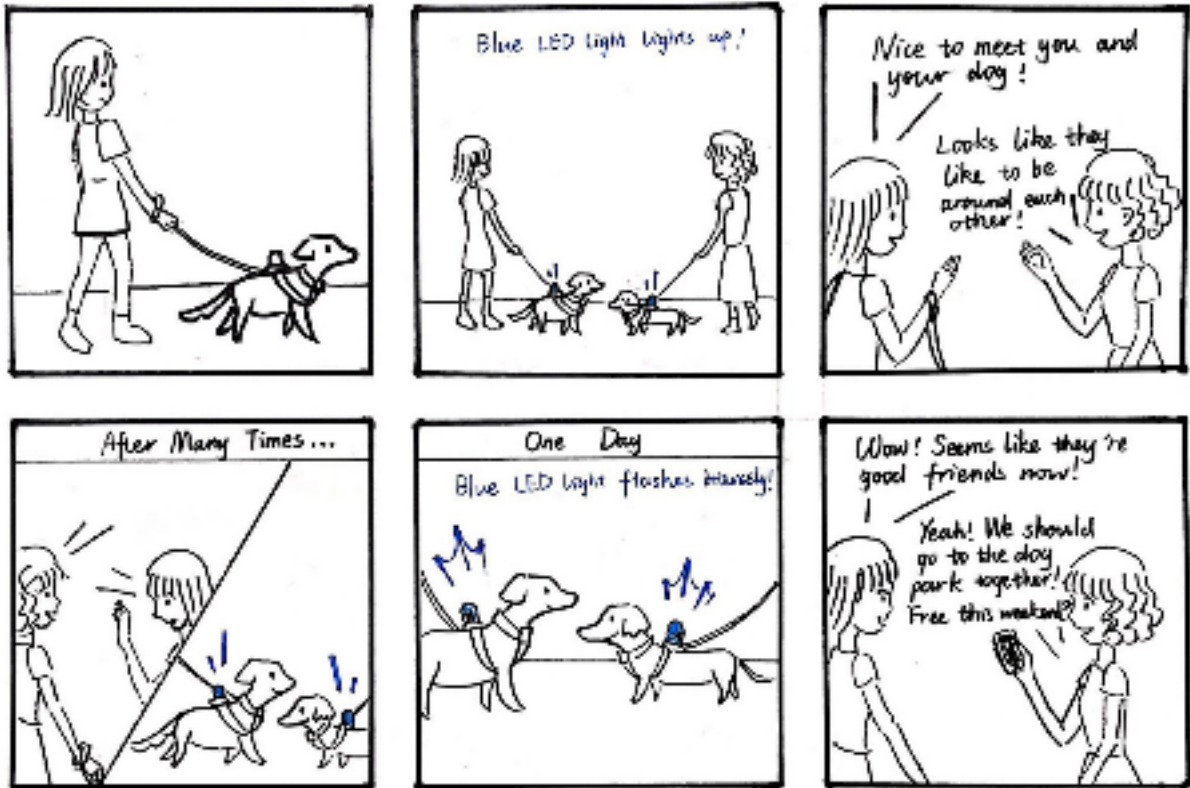
We selected the collar/leash wearable technology (Design 2) as our design direction, and finding neighborhood dog friends (Task 1) and avoiding unfriendly/awkward interactions between dog owners (Task 4) as our focused tasks. We chose the collar/leash wearable technology design because it can be easily integrated into the daily routines of owners. This design better accommodates for the busy lifestyle of many of our participants than the other two designs. Since the cues to display the dogs' preferences are subtle, the participants' current routines should not be irritated. Moreover, since the components of the design are attachable devices, owners can still use any gear that they already possess and prefer to use (as our participant owners tend to have already researched thoroughly their dog gear). Lastly, the design does not automate any essential caring procedures between owner and dog but rather aims to enhance communication between the dog and those unfamiliar with the dog. Our participants wanted to maintain their personal connection with their dog and we feel that this design does not jeopardize that.

The tasks that we had in this design were:

- **[Selected] Task 1: Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization**
- Task 2: Avoiding improper or provoking interactions from strangers with dogs
- **[Selected] Task 4: Avoiding unfriendly or awkward interactions between dog owners**
- Task 6: Identifying compatible dogs as a permanent companion for current dog

According to our research, our participants show strong demand for socializing their dogs positively but also trying to avoid awkward interactions with other dog owners at the same time. Not all dog owners are eager to adopt another compatible dog and they usually have an understanding of the basic type of compatible dogs in mind. Some of them have found out ways to avoid improper/provoking interactions from strangers with dogs, such as letting their dogs wear clothes with a warning sign. Task 1 and Task 4 are more challenging for the owner to solve by themselves since the owners will need a tool to connect and build community in their neighborhood in order to solve the problems. In addition, once a dog owner has had unfriendly experiences with other dogs and dog owners, they are more likely to pull their dog away from other dogs on walks and restrict social opportunities for their dog. This leads to a loss in finding social opportunities for their dogs, so Tasks 1 and 4 are inherently connected.

Task 1: Finding neighborhood dog friends to increase exposure to socialization



Task 4: Avoiding unfriendly or awkward interactions between dog owners

