

Fantastic Five # 618

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Problem Statement:

How might we improve the interaction between the elderly with limited mobility manage the responsibility of caring for dogs.

Problem Analysis:

Contact with a dog, cat, or other pet has been clinically shown

- to lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels
- to reduce the incidence of depression
- Pets help reduce boredom and feelings of hopelessness
- Instill in the owner a sense of purpose born from being accountable for the welfare of an animal
- Fewer doctor visits are reported
- Aerobic activity levels rise
- Many elderly need to give up their dogs as their mobility declines.
- Pet separation can be devastating to mental and physical health of the elderly and a huge problem for the families.

Sources:

- 7 Team Experts (Physicians, Vets, Home Health Care Pros, Associations, Organizations)
- Peer Reviewed Articles (6 different articles)
- Multiple Books
- U.S. Patent Database
- Patent Attorney
- Reliable Websites

Solution Sharing:

- Council on Aging Organization
- 2 Vets
- 3 Physicians
- Home Care Professionals
- 4 Elders

Next Steps

Find a mechanical engineer to mentor team
Mechanize, Automate, Motorize the food elevator

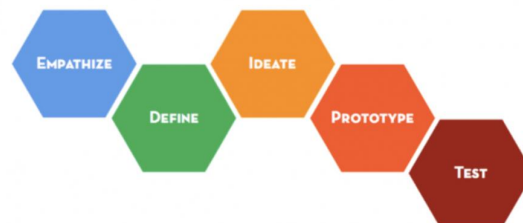
Solution: The Food Elevator

The Food elevator adds value by making it easier for elderly with mobility issues feed a dog.



Solution Process: Design Thinking

Process designed by Stanford University



Innovation:

The Food Elevator a brand new idea:

- There is no existing patent for a “Food Elevator”.
- Counter height feeding system does not exist, now it does 😊.
- Yes, automatic feeders exists- but nothing that raises or lowers a dog bowl.