



Website Redesign Project

Creating Intuitive Content Management

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Introduction

Our client, Christine, is the president of the non-profit Giles Animal Rescue, which helps homeless, neglected, and abused pets in Giles County. The organization has a Drupal website that several groups of students have worked on, but it still needed bug fixes and feature expansion. Our goal is to make all the changes she asked for, as well as create a website content management environment that is easy to maintain. We don't want her to have to find more volunteers to help with the website after we complete our work.

We worked closely with her, meeting every other Wednesday to demonstrate our changes. We will continue to receive feedback on the changes, propose new changes, and get tasked with more changes in the following weeks. Most changes involved text formatting issues and adding images to pages. Additionally, we changed settings in Drupal to make adding and editing content easy, and set up an account with an organization that offers free hosting for nonprofits.



Display Modifications

We focused primarily on our client's objectives, mostly fixing bugs and display issues. These changes include:

- Modified search/filter on Adoptable Animals
- Removed metadata from News Events
- Added pictures to the Volunteer, Donate, and About Us pages
- Added the ability to enlarge pictures by clicking on pictures using the Colorbox module
- Created a separate tab for:
 - information about the shelter
 - contact information
 - map of the location
 - links to shelter website
 - shelter adoption procedures
- Adjusted the Links block by:
 - separating the "Like us on Facebook" text with the "Like" button, from the "Donate" text followed by the donate form
- Modified how picture galleries were being displayed for all picture content types
- Added a traffic counter to most website pages
- Modified status of adoptable pets to better reflect the animals' current status
- Made a new picture size standard
- Added new menus



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Giles Animal Rescue website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to HOME, ABOUT, ANIMALS, MEMORIALS, SUCCESS STORIES, VOLUNTEER, DONATE, and SHELTER. Below the navigation is the organization's logo and address: GILES ANIMAL RESCUE, P.O. BOX 354 PEARISBURG, VA 24134. The main content area features a section titled "News & Events" with a link to "Giles Animal Rescue Yard Sale". It includes text about the yard sale, a photo of two women handling a small dog, and a link to "4th Annual Spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic – March 8th". To the right, there is a sidebar with sections for "Links" (Facebook page), "Donate" (with payment method icons), and "Newsletter" (with an email input field and "Subscribe" button). A footer at the bottom provides details about the rabies clinic held on March 8th.



Intuitive Content Management

Christine is unfamiliar with Drupal and website hosting so we are trying to do everything we can to make maintaining her site as easy and intuitive as possible:

Better Backend Management:

- Hosted previously on GoDaddy
- Moved to Bluehost through Grassroots, which serves nonprofit organizations
- Included a cPanel interface to easily manage, update, and backup the site
- Created a subdomain for adding and testing new features before pushing to site

Consistent Text Formatting:

- Changed content boxes to Filtered HTML to resolve formatting inconsistencies

Newsletter Subscription Administration:

- Previously, newsletter subscribers were collected but couldn't be accessed, so:
- Created instructions on exporting subscriber email addresses,
- Developed a system for admins to email subscribers directly from the Drupal module



Conclusion

Overall, our client has been very pleased with our changes and is excited about the future of her website. Display changes have increased the overall look and quality of the website. Pages now have uniform formatting and display features. Additionally, since content management is very hard for our client, after moving to the new host she will be able to easily perform Drupal updates.

We feel that we have put forth our best effort over the course of this semester. We are proud to have assisted such a great organization that helps save unfortunate animals. We hope that our changes will aid them with their mission.

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