# BRADEN

Hello, my name is Braden Thuraisingham and I am a UX researcher and UX designer.





# Website Redesign



# The Team



Braden Thuraisingham UX Researcher and Designer



Ben Hamler UX Researcher and Designer



Ashley Annis UX Designer and Writer



**Aaron Singh** UX Designer and Writer



### Problem & Goal

My team's client, **Sanders K-9 Inn**, is a family-owned, doggie daycare located in Fullerton, California. Sanders' **problem** was:

The website was outdated, and needed to better cater to the needs of customers.

The goal of this project was:

To update the client's website, with a focus on user-centered design. More specifically, we sought to provide crucial information such as cost of services and business policies.





### **Project Plan**

In a project plan, we identified:



#### Stakeholders

**External** Rick Sanders - Owner Jessica Sanders - Owner

#### Internal

Braden Thuraisingham Ben Hamler Ashley Annis Aaron Singh



Methods

#### Generative

Competitive Analysis Heuristic Evaluation Cognitive Walkthrough 1 Usability Test

#### **Pre-Design** Theme Analysis

I heme Analysis Buy-A-Feature Workshop

**Evaluative** Cognitive Walkthrough 2



#### Participants

Segment/Profile Random, online individuals

#### Location Various (Online) Loop11

**Recruitment Strategy** Amazon Mechanical Turk

Incentive Money for participating in research



#### **Costs & Other Requirements**

**Total: \$44** \$1 paid to participants (22 total) for taking part in research \$1 per participant paid to Amazon Mechanical Turk

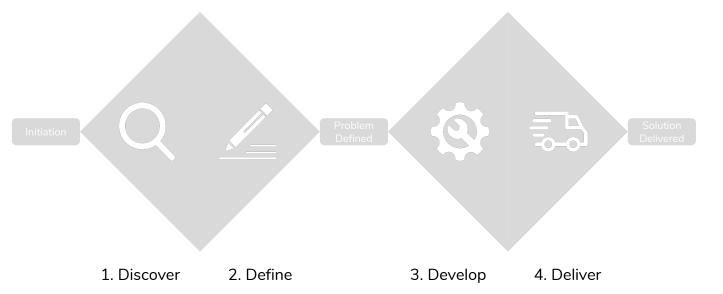
#### **Other Requirements**

Loop11 membership to create online, unmoderated usability test

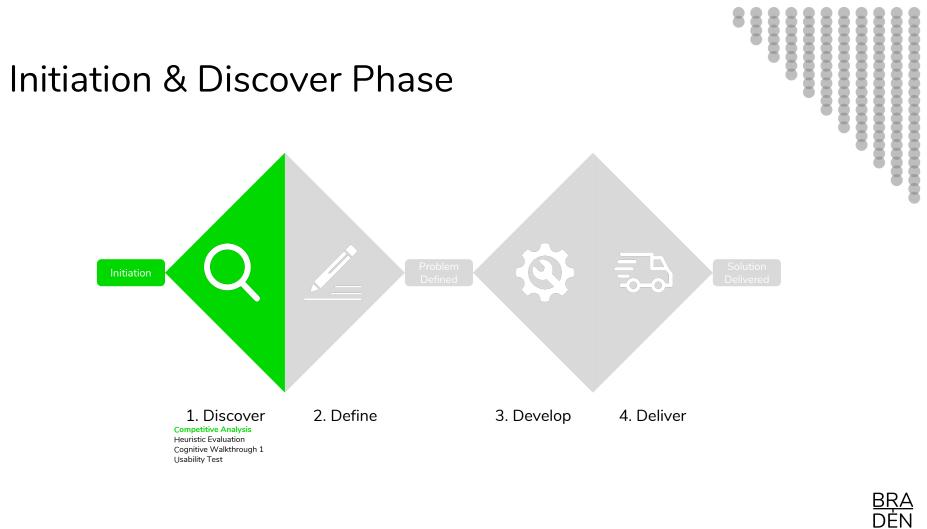


### **Research Methods**

My team and I utilized the **Double Diamond** framework throughout the process:









### **Competitive Analysis: Introduction**

We performed a **competitive analysis** to find the strengths and weaknesses of the client's direct competitors, indirect competitors, and influencers. My team's analysis included the following companies:





# Competitive Analysis: Background

As we analyzed the competitors, the following categories emerged:

#### Website Features



**Social Media:** Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and integration on the website



**Interactions:** Online booking, video monitoring, and corporate/member login



**Company Information:** Testimonials and FAQ section

#### **Information Provided**



Grooming: Services and pricing



Boarding: Services and pricing



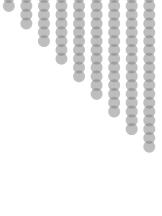
**Requirements:** Application process, vaccination, and sterilization and age requirements.



**Outside Services:** Training, at-home care, and taxi services



**Miscellaneous:** App, photos of facilities, pet fostering, and employee bios





According to Blue Ocean Strategy, there are 3 different kinds of marketplaces <sup>1</sup>:



Blue Ocean A market that is filled with fish (customers with unmet needs).



Purple Ocean

A market that contains sharks (competitors), but has opportunities to innovate and catch fish.



Red Ocean

An extremely competitive market that is filled with sharks, but not enough fish.

Sanders K-9 Inn is currently in a **Purple Ocean**. The following slides provide recommendations for growth in this marketplace.



### **Social Media**

#### **Current Situation: Needs Improvement**

Sanders K-9 Inn needs to increase the amount of social media platforms it has to better compete in its market.

#### **Recommendation:**

Add and increase activity on social media platforms. Sanders K-9 Inn is behind Camp Bow Wow in that it lacks Google+, Twitter, and YouTube accounts. By adding these, Sanders will increase traffic and popularity to their business.



#### Interactions

#### **Current Situation: Needs Improvement**

Sanders K-9 Inn lacks meaningful user interactions on their website. Notably lacking the ability to make reservations on the website.

#### **Recommendation:**

Add user interaction features to the website, especially the ability to make reservations online through the website. Online reservation making is very important in this marketplace. Also, video check-in/monitoring seems to be a necessity in this market. Sanders can utilize Camio as an influencer and gain an advantage.

# (i)

### **Company Information**

#### **Current Situation:** Leading

Sanders K-9 Inn currently leads the market in this area by offering both FAQs and Testimonial pages.

#### **Recommendation:**

Despite being the leader in this area, it is important to not become complacent. Sanders K-9 Inn should look into ways to further provide information such as a "day in the life of a Sanders K-9 Inn dog" that shows what a dog does throughout the day.

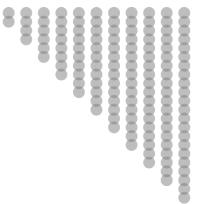
### Grooming

#### **Current Situation:** Leading

Sanders K-9 Inn currently leads the market in information provided about their grooming services. They're the only business to provide details about what microlevel services they provide.

#### **Recommendation:**

Despite being the leader in this area, it is important to not become complacent. Sanders K-9 Inn should look to expand its grooming services by adding things like dandruff control and dental care.



### Boarding

#### **Current Situation: Leading**

Sanders K-9 Inn currently leads the market in information provided about their boarding services.

#### **Recommendation:**

Despite being the leader in this area, it is important to not become complacent. Sanders K-9 Inn should look to expand its boarding services by adding things like cat boarding and more detailed information about the space that the dogs can play in.



#### Requirements

#### **Current Situation: Needs Improvement**

Sanders K-9 Inn is behind in the information provided about what is required of the customer to use their business.

#### **Recommendation:**

To make up ground and eventually lead in this area of the market, Sanders K-9 Inn must provide more information about what their requirements are. They should create a page that is dedicated to explaining what prospective dogs must do in order to utilize Sanders.



#### **Current Situation: Needs Improvement**

Sanders K-9 Inn is currently behind in the services the offer outside of their core services.

#### **Recommendation:**

Sanders K-9 Inn must start offering outside services such as dog beach days and pet taxi services to make up ground in marketplace. Sanders should consider adding services that no other company has like house calls to become the leader in this area of the market.



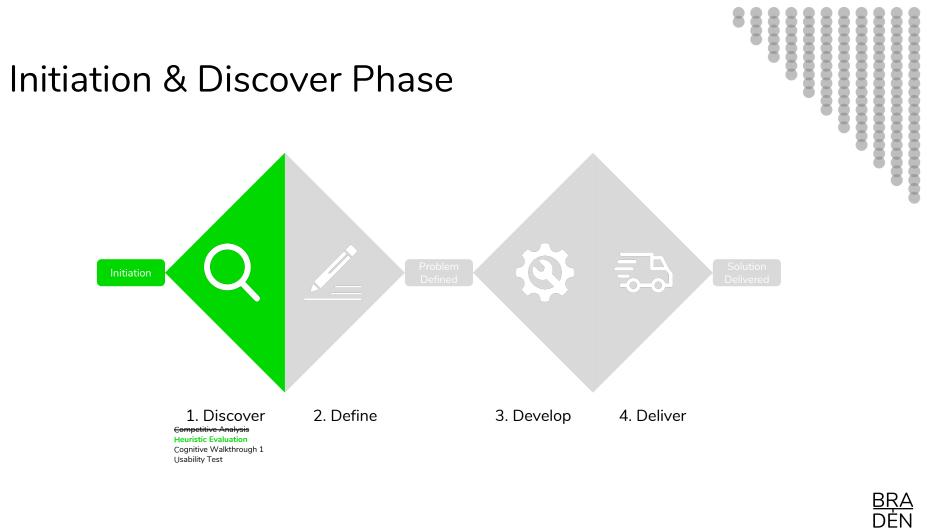
#### Miscellaneous

#### **Current Situation: Leading**

Sanders K-9 Inn is currently leading in the miscellaneous area of the marketplace.

#### **Recommendation:**

Despite being the leader of this are of the marketplace it is important for Sanders K-9 Inn to look into creating an app for their business. At this period in time, it is vital for businesses to have apps so that customers can utilize and find information about their business while on their phones.



### -0 4-0 -

### Heuristic Evaluation: Introduction

Utilizing the Nielsen Norman Group's <u>Usability Heuristics</u>, my team and I performed a **heuristic evaluation** of the Sanders K-9 Inn website to test the overall usability of the interface.

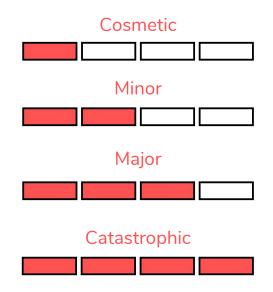
| H1. | Visibility of system status             | H6.  | Recognition rather than recall                          |
|-----|---|------|---|
| H2. | Match between system and the real world | H7.  | Flexibility and efficiency of use                       |
| Н3. | User control and freedom                | H8.  | Aesthetic and minimalist design                         |
| H4. | Consistency and standards               | H9.  | Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors |
| H5. | Error prevention                        | H10. | Help and documentation                                  |





### Heuristic Evaluation: Introduction

We focused on specifically negative findings, and used the Nielsen Norman Group's <u>severity</u> <u>scale</u>:









### Heuristic Evaluation: Key Findings

Blank Summer Promotion Page

Catastrophic

The summer promotion page is blank which could confuse users into thinking that something may be loading.

#### Recommendation

Remove page or add copy that says that the page is under construction.





### Heuristic Evaluation: Key Findings

Information on Grooming Services Page

Minor

FAQ style questions are found on this page and don't make sense in the setting.

#### Recommendation

Move the question and answers to the FAQS page under a section about pet care.





# Heuristic Evaluation: Key Findings

#### Inconsistent language

|      | ter |
|------|-----|
| 5171 |     |

Language used to describe services offered varies from page to page, resulting in repetition and difficulty locating information needed in an efficient way.

#### Recommendation

Revise language to appear consistent across all mentions of a particular product or service.





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# Heuristic Evaluation: Key Findings

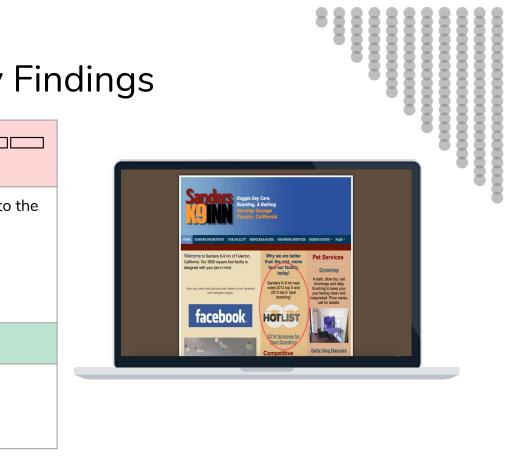
#### Menu bar dropdown

| Ma   | ior |
|------|-----|
| IVIA |     |

Drop down menu shows up when hovered over making it difficult to see that the header is also a page.

#### Recommendation

Turn the header into just a header and not its own page.



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### Heuristic Evaluation: Key Findings

Image links to incorrect page

| Mi | nor |
|----|-----|

The Orange County Hotlist image does not take the user to the same page that the link below it does.

#### Recommendation

Change this link to the same as the link below it.



### Heuristic Evaluation: Findings Summary

| H1. Visibility of system status                             | 1 |
|---|---|
| H2. Match between system and the real world                 | 1 |
| H3. User control and freedom                                | 0 |
| H4. Consistency and standards                               | 6 |
| H5. Error prevention  | 4 |
| H6. Recognition rather than recall                          | 1 |
| H7. Flexibility and efficiency of use                       | 0 |
| H8. Aesthetic and minimalist design                         | 4 |
| H9. Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors | 0 |
| H10. Help and documentation                                 |   |

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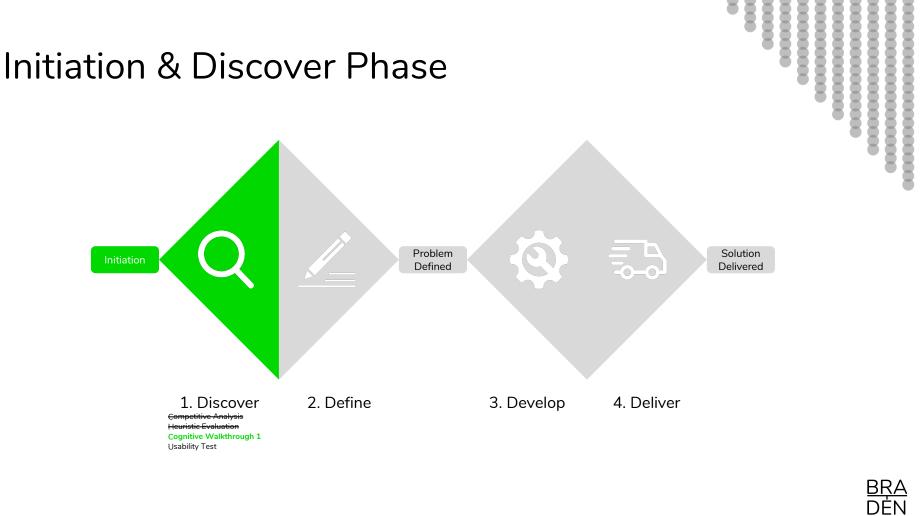


### Heuristic Evaluation: Findings Summary



| Cosmetic                       | 4                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Minor                          | 7                             |
| Major                          | 5                             |
| Catastrophic                   | 2                             |
| Most common heuristic violated | H4. Consistency and Standards |





### Cognitive Walkthrough: Introduction

My team and I conducted a **cognitive walkthrough** to walkthrough specific, goal-oriented tasks from the perspective of a new user. Tasks were evaluated in two ways:



The potential for a first time/infrequent user to complete the step The user's likelihood of knowing that they are progressing toward their goal

If a fail was assigned to either of the two questions, then the entire task failed. For each failing task, we identified the <u>Usability Heuristic</u> it violated.

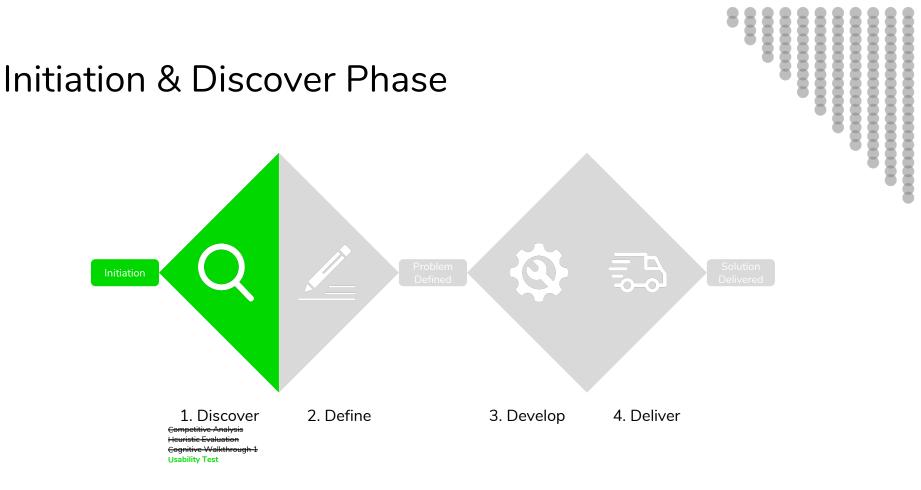




### Cognitive Walkthrough: Results

| Task   | Result | Heuristic<br>Violated |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| 1. Find out how much a nail trim costs                                     | Fail   | H2, H4, H5, H6        |
| 2. Find Sanders K-9 Inn's address  | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 3. Determine the requirements for your dog to be boarded                   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 4. Learn about the company   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 5. Access the frequently asked questions                                   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 6. Find out which services Sanders K9 Inn offers                           | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 7. Determine the price of a 20-day daycare pass                            | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 8. Determine the price of daycare for a second dog from the same household | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 9. Find the forms required by Sanders K9 Inn                               | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 10. Find Sanders K9 Inn's hours  | Pass   | N/A                   |

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### **Usability Test: Introduction**

My team and I conducted a **usability test** to discover usability issues that a first-time user may encounter. We recruited 22 participants using Amazon Mechanical Turk, and conducted an unmoderated, online usability test using Loop11. Our participants had the following characteristics:

| <b>Age:</b>   | <b>Pet Owners:</b>                                      |
|---|---|
| Range: 23 to 63 years old                                       | 90.9% yes   |
| Mean: 30 years old  | 9.1% no   |
| <b>Gender:</b><br>14/22 male<br>7/22 female<br>1/22 no response | <b>Pet Website Experience:</b><br>54.5% yes<br>45.5% no |





We asked participants to complete three tasks to test the usability of the Sanders K-9 Inn website:



**Task 1** Find the price of a nail trim.



**Task 2** Find Sanders K-9 Inn's address.



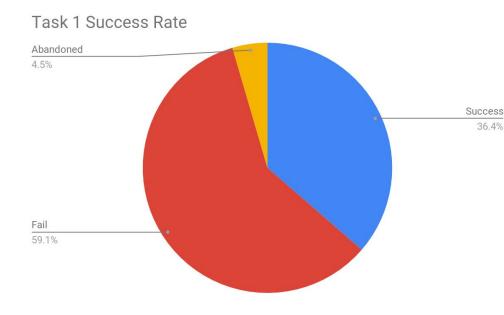
**Task 3** Determine the requirements for your dog to be able to board at Sanders K-9 Inn



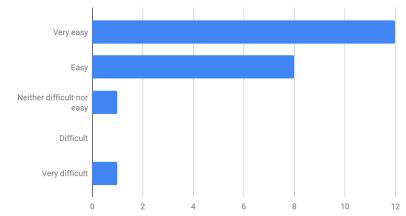




In task 1 we asked participants to **find the price of a nail trim**. We tracked **success rate** and **self-reported difficulty rating**:









#### **Observations:**

Most participants failed to follow the intended path. However, they were still able to find the information that was needed to correctly fulfill the goal of the task. This would explain why 90.9% of participants rated the task as either very easy or easy, despite 59.1% of participants failing the task.

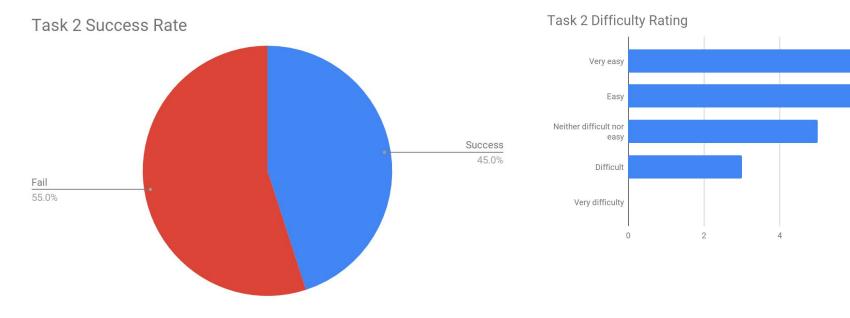
### Interesting Quotes:

Went to the grooming section, and it was in the pricing table. Easy to find and see.

- Participant 1



In task 2 we asked participants to **find the address of Sanders K-9 Inn**. We tracked **success rate** and **self-reported difficulty rating**:





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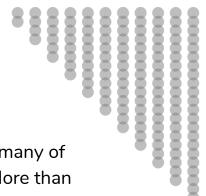
**Observations:** 

Close to half of the participants were able to successfully fulfill the goal. Interestingly, many of them completed the task through an alternative path, rather than the intended path. More than 63% reported that the task was either very easy or easy.

### **Interesting Quotes:**

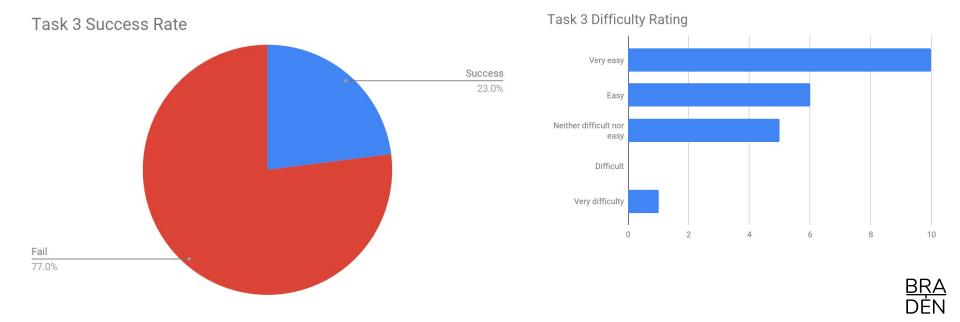
This information is on the reservations page. It was easy to find.

- Participant 5





In task 2 we asked participants to determine the requirements for a dog to be able to board at Sanders K-9 Inn. We tracked success rate and self-reported difficulty rating:





#### **Observations:**

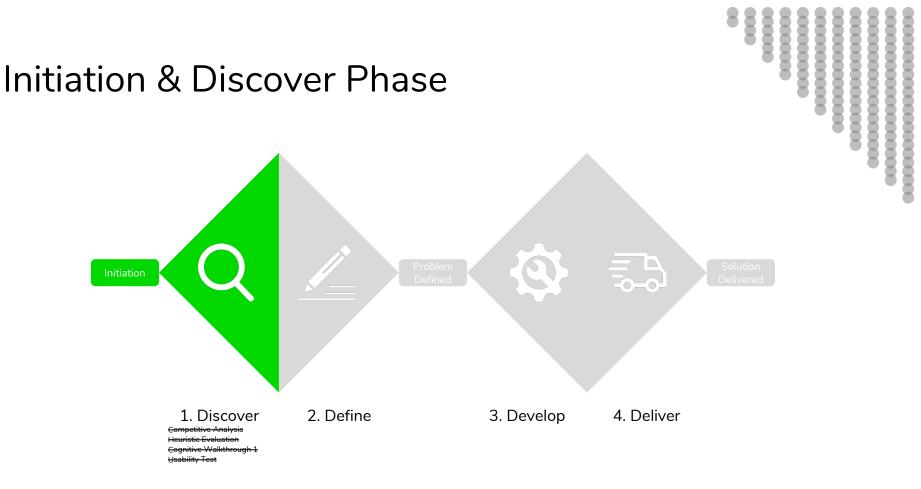
Most participants were able to find the correct information despite not following the intended path. This would explain why 77% of participants failed the task, and 72.8% of them reported that the task was either very easy or easy.

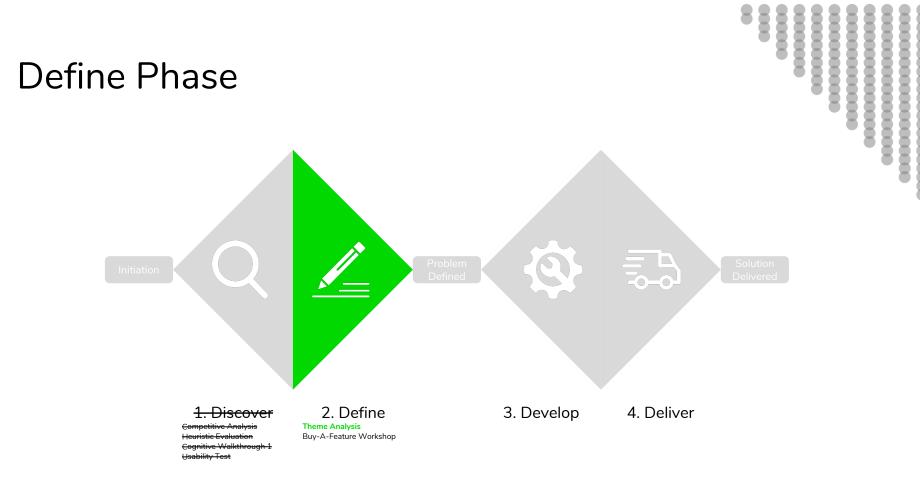
### **Interesting Quotes:**

I just went to the FAQ and found the requirements.

- Participant 18







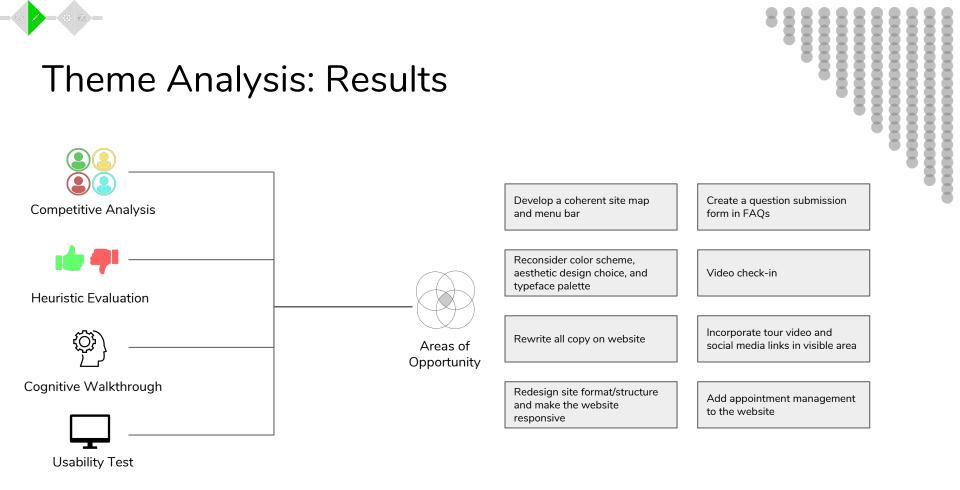


## **Theme Analysis: Introduction**

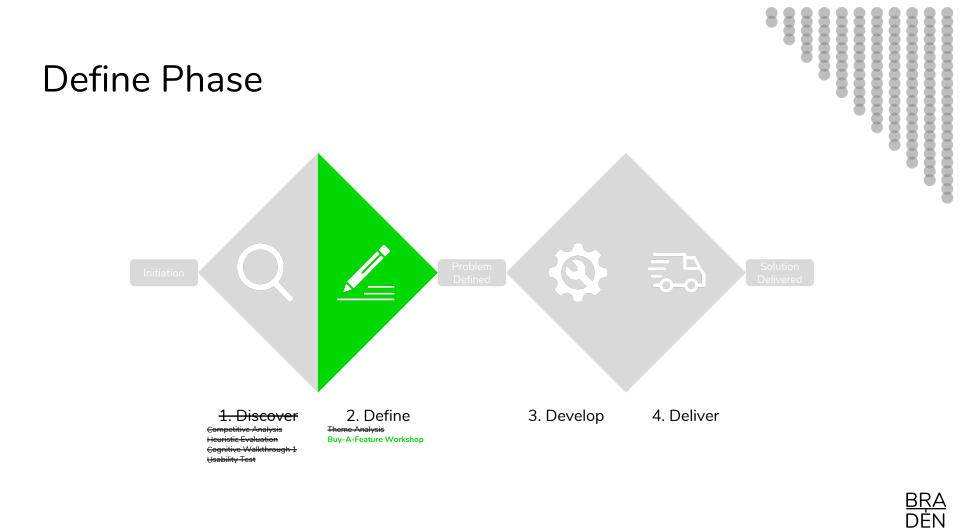
My team and I conducted a **theme analysis** to summarize the findings of our competitive analysis, heuristic evaluation, cognitive walkthrough, and usability test, and look for **problematic themes**. This helped us define **areas of opportunity** as we moved into the Develop phase of the Double Diamond.









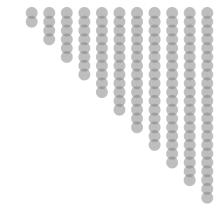


## **Buy-A-Feature Workshop: Introduction**

Due to time constraints, we could not fix all of our findings. As a result, the team decided to conduct a **buy-a-feature workshop** to a prioritize our efforts. This method worked like this:

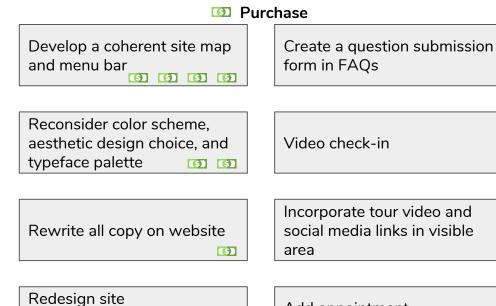
- 1. The areas of opportunity that we previously found represented our "features"
- 2. Each feature was priced at \$1
- 3. Each team member was given enough money to purchase 25% of the features (\$2)
- 4. Members were allowed to negotiate and pool their money to determine what they would purchase over the course of 60 minutes



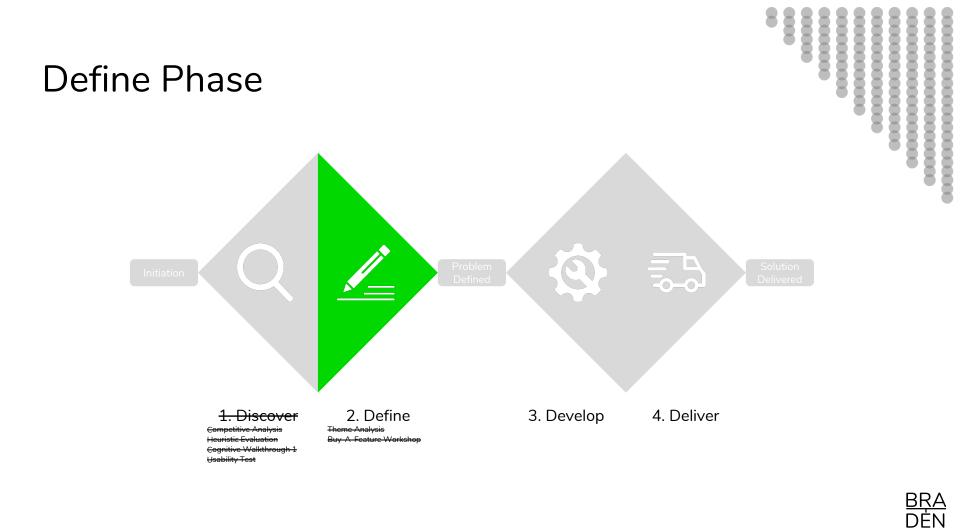


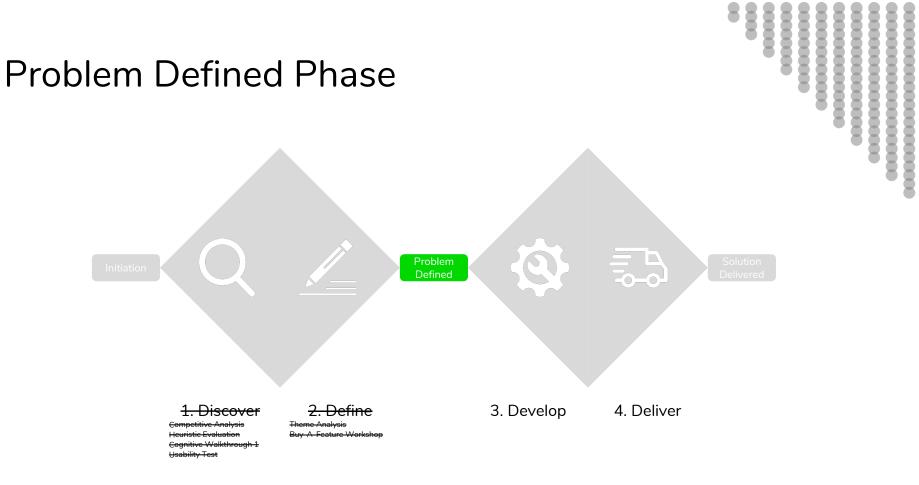
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## **Buy-A-Feature Workshop: Results**



format/structure and make the website responsive Add appointment management to the website





## **Problem Defined Phase**

Based on the buy-a-feature analysis, we decided to focus on the following issues:



High Priority

**Information Architecture** 



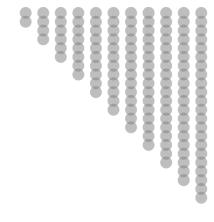
#### **Medium Priority**

**Aesthetics & Content** 

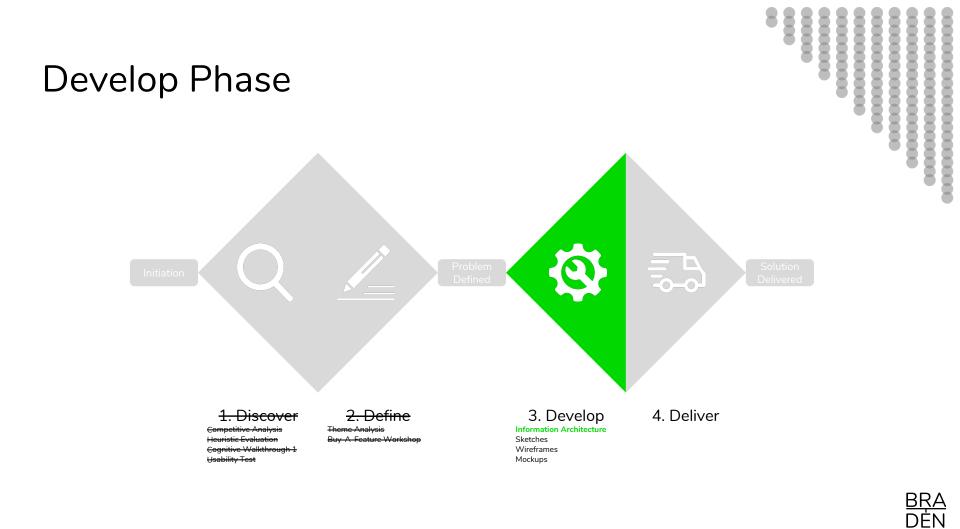


#### Low Priority

Customer Interaction (e.g. Customer Management Tools, Video Portal)

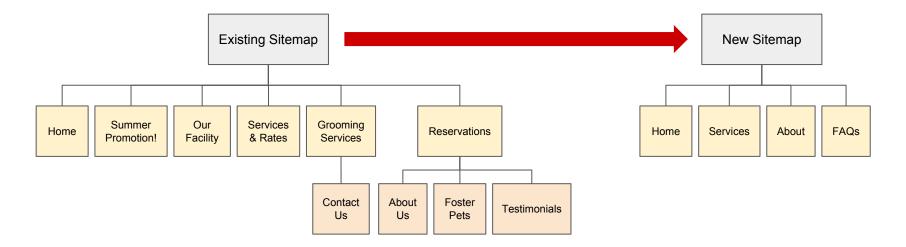


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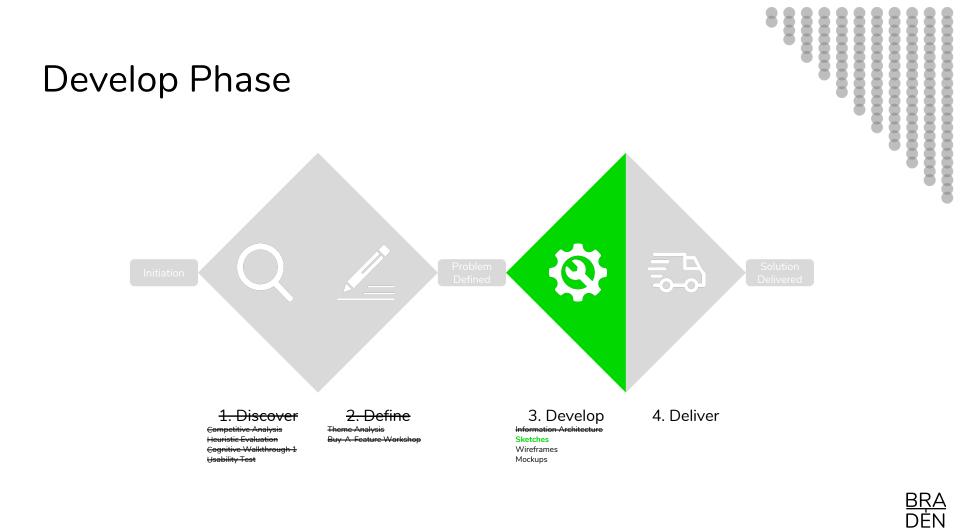


## Information Architecture Redesign

We wanted to immediately address the **high priority** issue of **information architecture**. The team created a **sitemap** of the existing site, and worked to simplify it based on the research we had conducted.

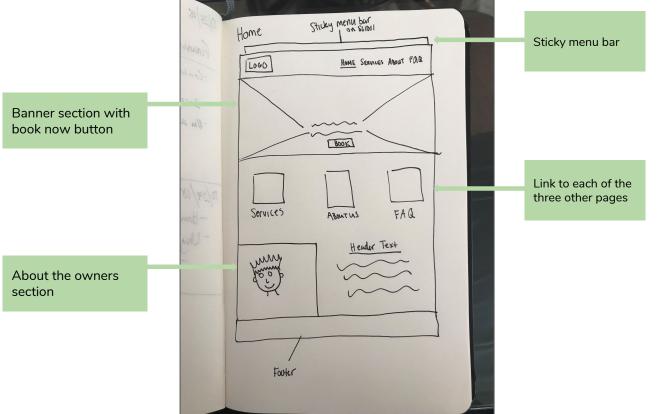






### Sketches: Home

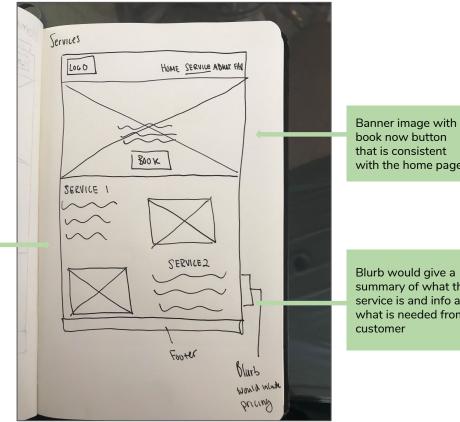
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### **Sketches: Services**

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Information about each service (boarding, grooming, daycare) and prices



book now button that is consistent with the home page

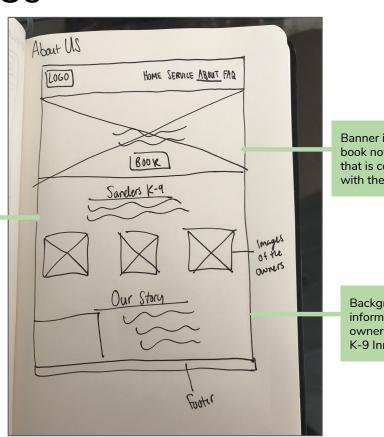
summary of what the service is and info about what is needed from the



### Sketches: About Us

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Section about admirable qualities of the business and company goals



Banner image with book now button that is consistent with the home page

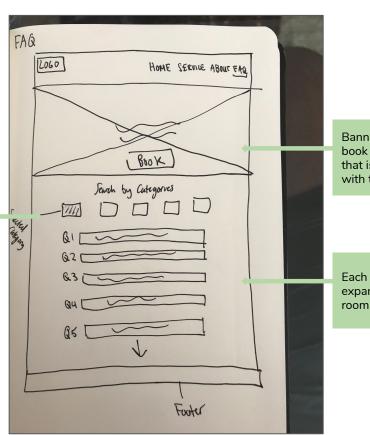
Background information on the owners of Sanders K-9 Inn



## Sketches: FAQ

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Sort FAQs by categories to make it easier to navigate



Banner image with book now button that is consistent with the home page

Each question is expandable to save room on page



## Sketches: Conclusion

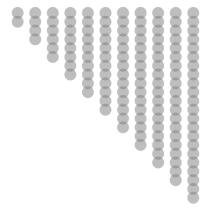
After presenting my sketches to my team, here is the **feedback** that I received:

#### Strengths

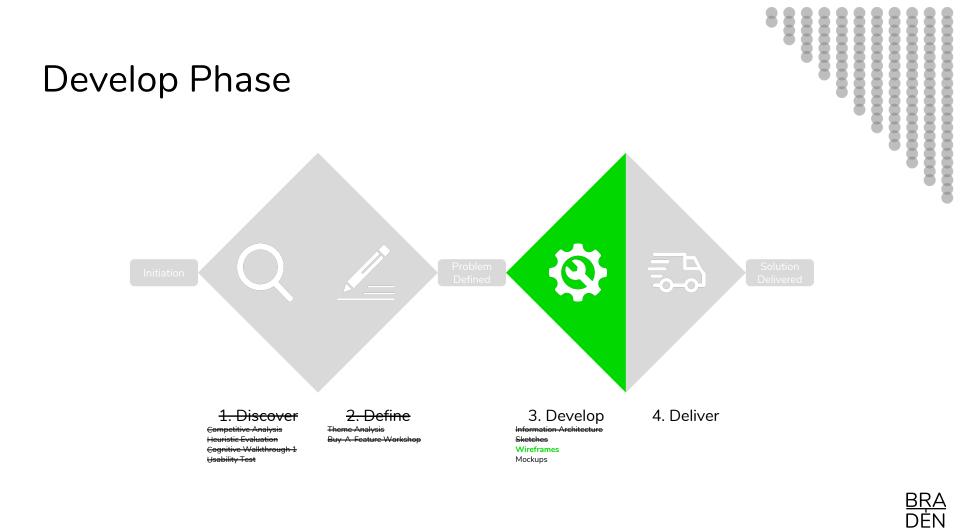
- Good information architecture
- Very simple and concise
- Sticky menu bar
- FAQ section categories
- Good fidelity

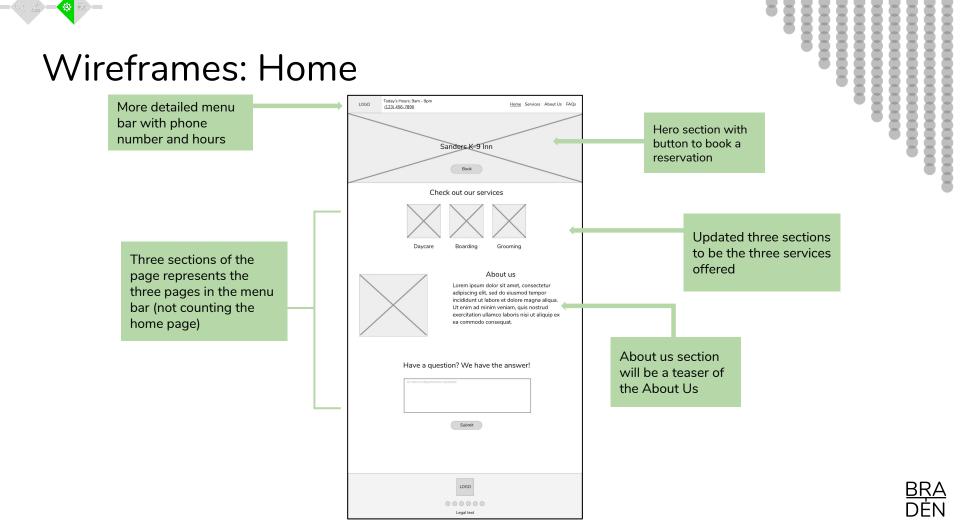
#### Weaknesses

- Menu bar might be too simple
- About Us page needs to be ordered better
- Services page does not read well



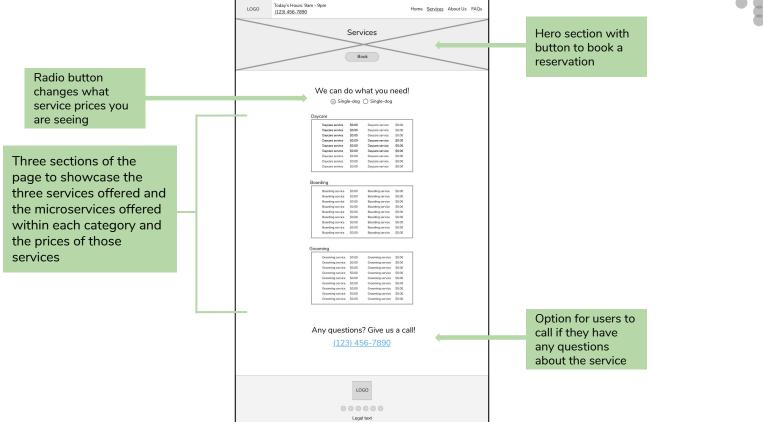






### Wireframes: Services

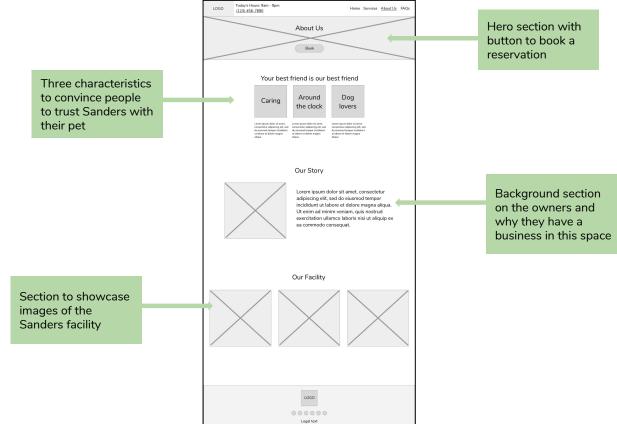
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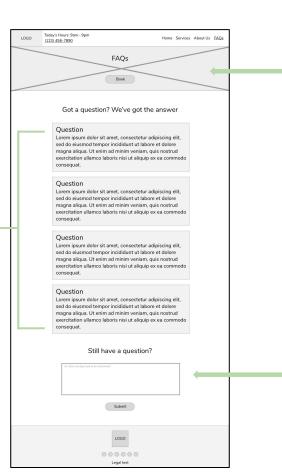
## Wireframes: About Us

**(3)** 



## Wireframes: FAQs

Questions with answers based on what users most often ask



Hero section with button to book a reservation

Question submission form if user's question still isn't answered

## Wireframes: Conclusion

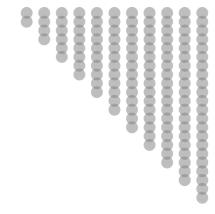
After presenting my wireframes to my team, here is the **feedback** that I received:

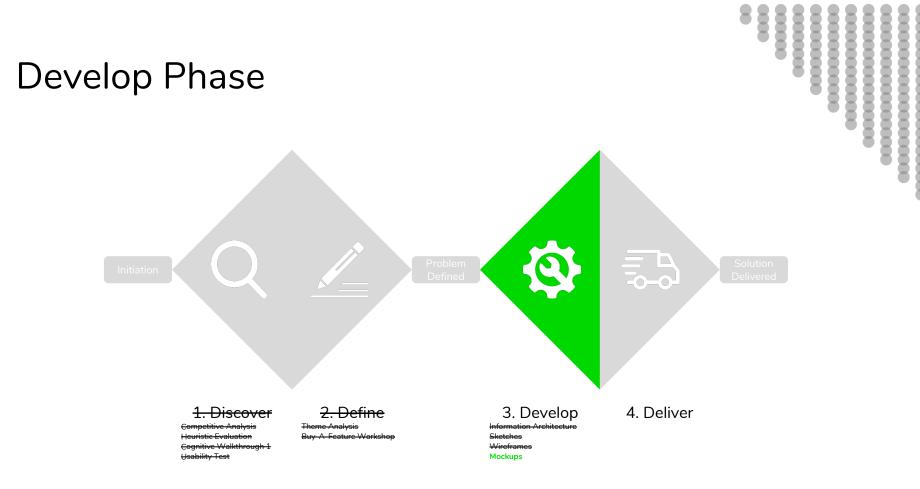
#### Strengths

- Homepage layout is very good and streamlined
- Including phone number and hours in menu bar is a good idea
- Question submission on FAQs page
- Better layout of services page

#### Weaknesses

- Services page does not need to be as long as it is maybe have three sections horizontally instead of vertically
- Question submission on Homepage is unnecessary
- Lacks ability to book from the menu bar



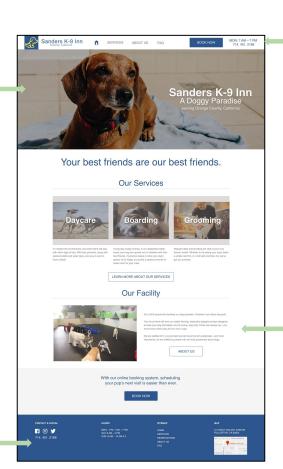


### Mockups: Home

**(1)** 

Updated hero section to not have a button because menu bar now has a book now button

Footer contains social media links, phone number, hours of operation, site map, address and interactive map



Updated menu bar to include a book now button

Replaced question submission form to showcase the facility



## Mockups: Services

**(3)** 

Services section

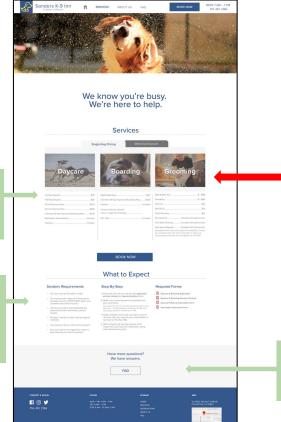
offers both single

dog and multi dog

List of requirements

and what to expect when bringing your pet into Sanders

pricing





### Mockups: About Us

Three sections to

Images section to showcase the facility (not actual photos of

the facility)

persuade people to do business with Sanders

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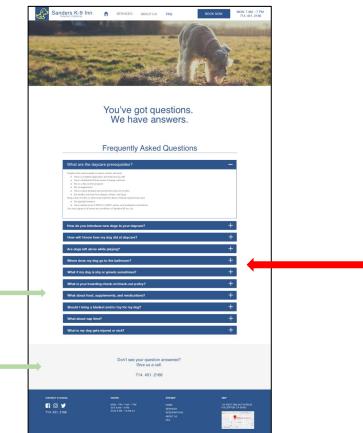


Section to give background on the owners

Section to give background on the owners



## Mockups: FAQs



|  | Frequently Asl  | and Gruesholls  |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| What are the dayca   | re prerequisites?   |   |  |
| Pupples from seeks to see<br>A share a compare application<br>A share a compare application<br>A see a set of the second program<br>B set on the second program<br>B set of the second second second<br>B set of the second second second<br>B set of the second second second<br>B second second second second second second<br>B second second second second second second second<br>B second second second second second second second second<br>B second second second second second second second second<br>B second secon | c and therapive by Staff<br>rate of puppy vecchines<br>indicated average size manifest<br>especi, literase, and highly<br>meet the actiour analogic sequences and<br>are (build) and analogical second second second<br>are SMPP, ratios, and boodetable vecchingtons |   |  |
| How do you introdu   | ice new dogs to daycare?  |   |  |
| We bring the new dog to a calm so<br>standy be integrated in with the of<br>Our main goal is to make sure eve  | er dogs.  | s will come in an a least cutil they calm down a fail, a  | Ind nerveus dogs will  |
|  | ow my dog behaved at day<br>a deam with you how your dog did in faycare.<br>Kentenik page so you can see who your gets in   | care or boarding?<br>Clerts as welcore to call it any time to check or<br>ril look and          | their beloved friend. We   |
| an an an an an Anna an   | when they play at daycare   | or boarding?<br>openprise play is stopped and pool behavior is re-                              | wittin   |
|  | g potty during their stay?  |   |  |
| No have antimicrossal <b>XMAssal*</b> 1<br>sublide to the grass—at ne additio  | vaughout our tacity for our fau-togged guests t<br>rel cost to you.   | o ga potty. Far our mare porticular guests, we take t   | them for a ship't walk   |
| What if my dog is s  | ty or growls sometimes?   |   |  |
| heel more confortable.   | bring your dag for their canoulation anyway. If p<br>a dags and if we can solidy integrate your dag in  | our deg passes then we will work with you and your<br>to our pack, we will.                     | dog to help make them  |
| What is your board   | ng check-in/check-out poli  | a/?   |  |
| P your dog is picked up by X0 a.m.<br>3 p.m. Takanting familing frames are<br>Trits allows us to properly prepare  | en will not be charged for depose that day. Me<br>B-10 ans, and 3-15 pm, andp.<br>your dag for their night's stey. Check in begins in   | eek that your dog be checked in to later than 5 p.m<br>hert we open.                            | on Monday-Priday and   |
| What about food, s   | upplements, and medication  | ns?   |  |
| spoet their eligentive system, so we<br>If for some reason you are unable to   | request that you bring enough food for their enti-<br>i bring food for your dag, we would be more then  | the food with them. We prefer to feed your day their  | .00 per most.  |
| Should I bring my c  | og toys or a blanket?   |   |  |
|  | , or topic and needed—however, if your pertill more<br>Killed with their favorite through. You may also use<br>ambor porty" with their bott pells.  | e comfortable in a kenner with their favorite blanket<br>nur kennels.                           | and tay, then you are more   |
| Do the dogs nap?<br>We have both for the dogs not at<br>However, if you have a puppy who   | If times, so the majority of the dogs have no and<br>in funzy about real time or an odder dog who we  | sien regaing on their ferotile bod.<br>I dig prefer to neg in private, we have specially design | national strength from the strength of the str |
| What if my dog get   | s injured or sick while in yo   | ur care?  |  |
| You will be outfind immediately if It  | e problem is servere. If it is minor, such as a burry<br>is is needed, we will hamperi year sing to year s<br>to will be required to call year set to give them o   |   | e of the emergency year  |

Frequently asked questions that can be expanded

🚯 🙃

Link to call Sanders rather than a question submission form that won't be check frequently



## Mockups: Conclusion

After presenting our mockups to a panel of design experts from Allstate, Honeywell, and MathWorks, and received the following feedback:

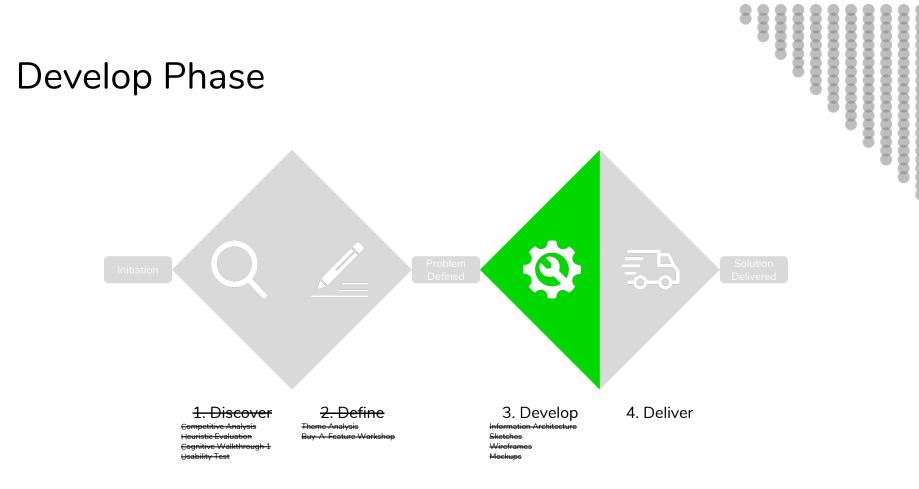
#### Strengths

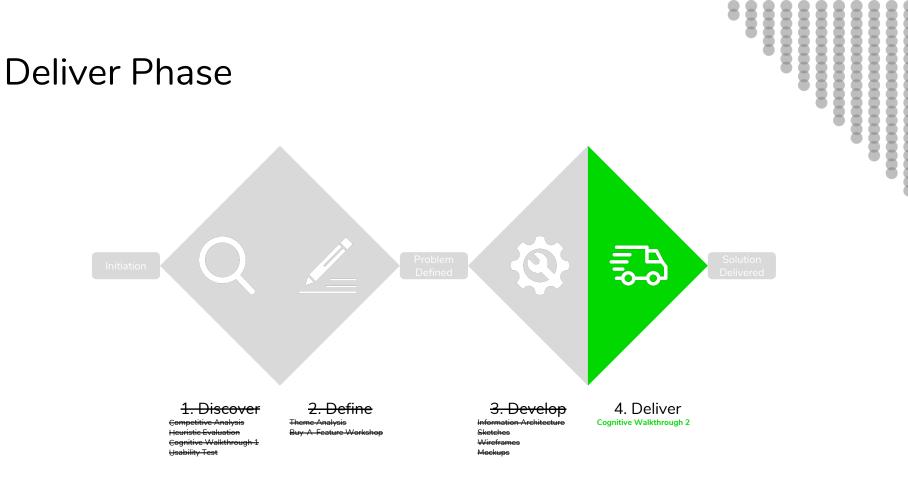
- Massive upgrade in overall usability
- Extremely clean and simplistic
- Critical information is easily accessible
- Good use of white space
- Pages flow really well

#### Weaknesses

- Home button is different than the other navigation buttons
- The secondary buttons (outlined ones) look inconsistent when on white background vs. grey backgrounds
- In the Services page, the tabs should always show whatever you're looking at as light-colored, and what you're not looking at as dark-colored



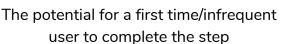




## Cognitive Walkthrough 2: Introduction

My team and I conducted a **second cognitive walkthrough** to walkthrough specific, goal-oriented tasks from the perspective of a new user, and **compare the results** to our first cognitive walkthrough. Tasks were evaluated in two ways:







The user's likelihood of knowing that they are progressing toward their goal

If a fail was assigned to either of the two questions, then the entire task failed. For each failing task, we identified the <u>Usability Heuristic</u> it violated.

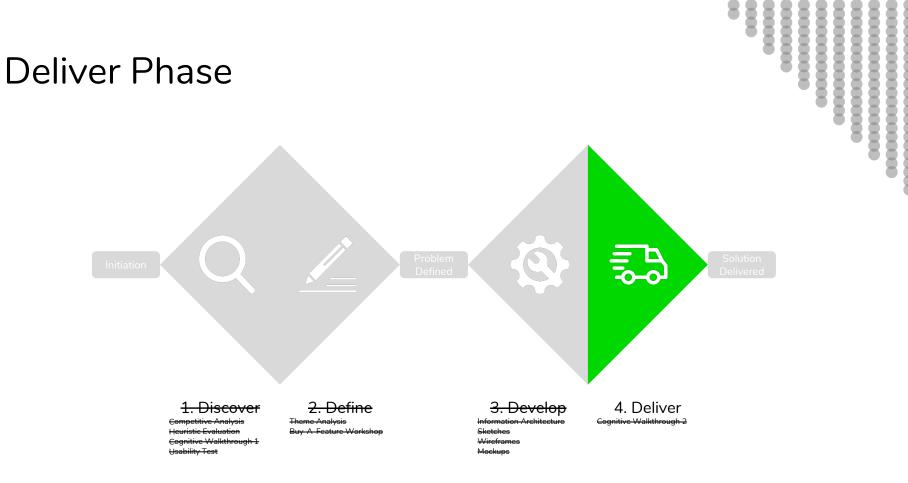


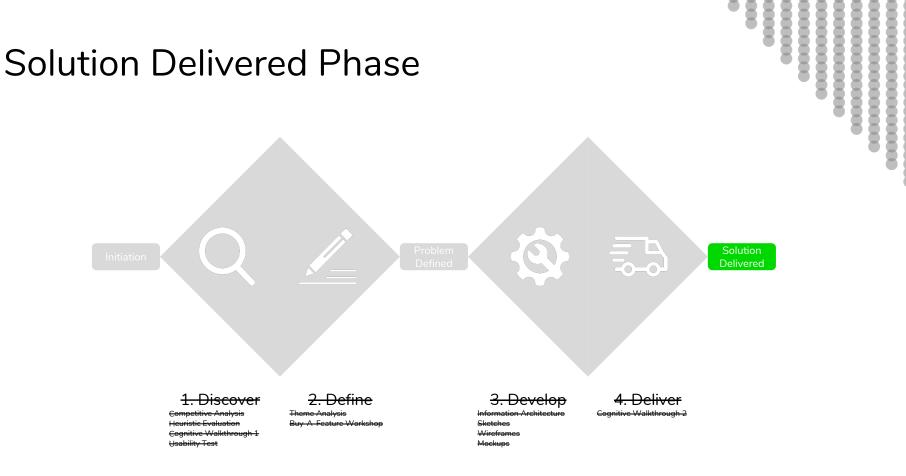
## Cognitive Walkthrough 1: Results

| Task   | Result | Heuristic<br>Violated |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| 1. Find out how much a nail trim costs                                     | Fail   | H2, H4, H5, H6        |
| 2. Find Sanders K-9 Inn's address  | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 3. Determine the requirements for your dog to be boarded                   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 4. Learn about the company   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 5. Access the frequently asked questions                                   | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 6. Find out which services Sanders K9 Inn offers                           | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 7. Determine the price of a 20-day daycare pass                            | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 8. Determine the price of daycare for a second dog from the same household | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 9. Find the forms required by Sanders K9 Inn                               | Fail   | H2, H4, H6            |
| 10. Find Sanders K9 Inn's hours  | Pass   | N/A                   |

## Cognitive Walkthrough 2: Results

| Task   | Result | Heuristic<br>Violated |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| 1. Find out how much a nail trim costs                                     | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 2. Find Sanders K-9 Inn's address  | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 3. Determine the requirements for your dog to be boarded                   | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 4. Learn about the company   | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 5. Access the frequently asked questions                                   | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 6. Find out which services Sanders K9 Inn offers                           | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 7. Determine the price of a 20-day daycare pass                            | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 8. Determine the price of daycare for a second dog from the same household | Pass   | N/A                   |
| 9. Find the forms required by Sanders K9 Inn                               | Fail   | H2, H4                |
| 10. Find Sanders K9 Inn's hours  | Pass   | N/A                   |





## Conclusion

Our solution focused on improving the following elements:



High Priority Information Architecture



Medium Priority Aesthetics & Content



Low Priority

Customer Interaction (e.g. Customer Management Tools, Video Portal)

The results of our second cognitive walkthrough showed an **improvement of 50%** to the general usability.

# Questions?



braden.thuraisingham@gmail.com

(954) 439-5244