

# Pouncing on the Purrfect Database

by Miriam Heard, Master of Library & Information Science

## Project Description: Answering the Call

- 🐱 Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue (SPCR) 501c3 non-profit founded in 1999
- 🐱 Volunteer based; 100+ operating out of Midwest
- 🐱 Foster/rehome 600-700 cats per year
- 🐱 Needs low-cost, hosted, customizable, easy to use database
- 🐱 Users vary in technology literacy
- 🐱 Assist with selection of a database to meet SPCR needs with many cats and volunteers



Wilah



## Process: Intake

- 🐱 Used list of database requirements as a guide
- 🐱 Given four initial databases to test: Vestafy, iShelters, Animal Shelter Manager, ShelterLuv
- 🐱 Vestafy deemed too cumbersome--moved on to test remaining three
- 🐱 With login instructions, entered mock data and used mobile device to test usability
- 🐱 Took notes of my findings along the way



Sissy

Ryder

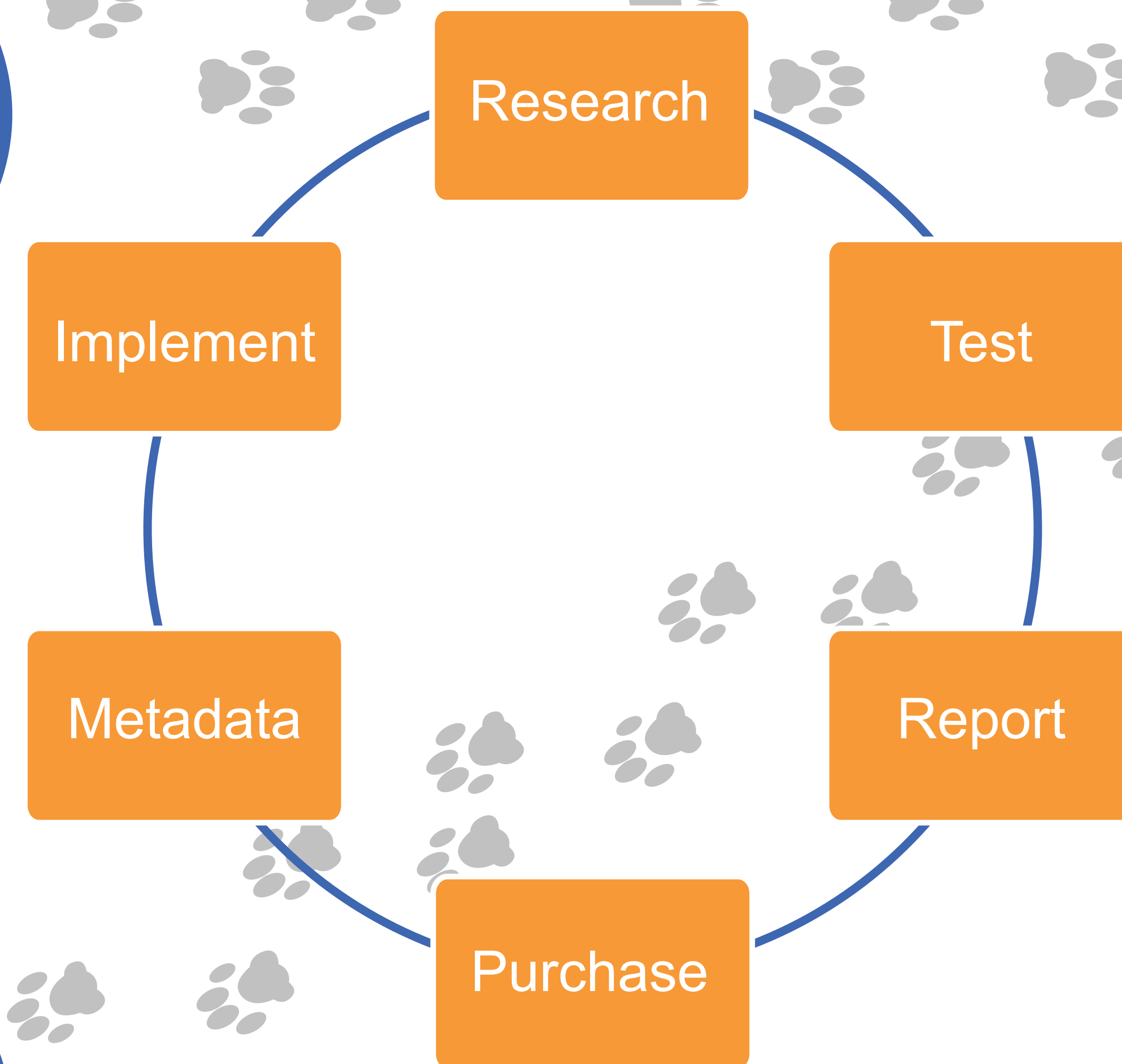


## Outcomes: Evaluation

- 🐱 Generated report describing pros and cons of each database
- 🐱 Provided recommendation of Animal Shelter Manager with runner up iShelters
- 🐱 Price point and customization were key factors
- 🐱 SPCR opted to demo Animal Shelter Manager & ShelterLuv; metadata standards developed for each
- 🐱 ShelterLuv GUI easier to navigate for new tech users



Sophie



## Next Steps: Adoption

- 🐱 SPCR has more perspective to go forth with testing foster life cycle before purchase
- 🐱 Usability vs. customization are currently two weighing factors
- 🐱 Centralized data will increase workflow and reduce redundancy and lapse in data entry
- 🐱 Detailed reporting factors = better funding opportunities
- 🐱 Eventually a database will be purchased