



FERAL DOG DATASHEET

Species Name: Madison

Reverse Engineer: Mike Kai

Site of Interest

I believe that the city of Tucson, Arizona would be an excellent release area for the feral robotic dogs. Specifically, I feel that the dogs could raise community interest on the issue of groundwater dependency.

Since water first flowed from the centrifugal groundwater pumps that were introduced in the early 1920's, the Tucson area has transformed from desert blond to semitropical green full of subdivisions, golf courses, and the occasional Wal Mart. Now growing rapidly like many developing suburban towns of the west, today's Tucson provides inexpensive housing, mild winter temperatures, and job opportunities to many new families and retirees.

However, groundwater- Tucson's lifeline - has proved to be an unrenewable resource. Groundwater levels have dropped dramatically since the early years, so much in some areas that the land has literally subsided and collapsed under its own weight. Many farmers have been forced to retire lands because the water has become too deep and too expensive to pump.

My feral robot dog is based on the now discontinued I-Cybie by Tiger Electronics. Affectionately named after my four year old sister, Madison is a highly modified, golden volatile organic compound retriever who loves high capacity batteries and big tires.

The original I-Cybie is an excellent indoor companion, but a lack of traction and leg clearance prevents it from escaping the confines of flat surfaces. Still, the robot does a good job of mimicking the movements of a real life dog. Eighteen independent motors enable the robot to navigate and do tricks like rolling over and righting itself.

I wanted to modify "Madison" so she could be free to roam the landscape, fighting evildoers who expel volatile organic compounds, while at the same time retaining at least some of the realism that the original I-Cybie provides.

Madison uses two independent locomotion mechanisms in the current design version. Two front mounted, motor driven wheels propel Madison, while a rear castor wheel provides stability. Madison still functions as the original I-Cybie, while the VOC sensors tell the front wheels what direction to travel in.

In effect, Madison has two separate brains, one that seeks out pollution, and one that just wants human attention. While the original navigation system still works, the VOC system is more powerful in terms of locomotion and has the final say in where Madison goes. The large wheels have excellent traction and enable Madison to travel distances she never thought were possible. As a result, Madison retains the playful nature and movements of the original I-Cybie, yet gets serious when there are pollutants around.