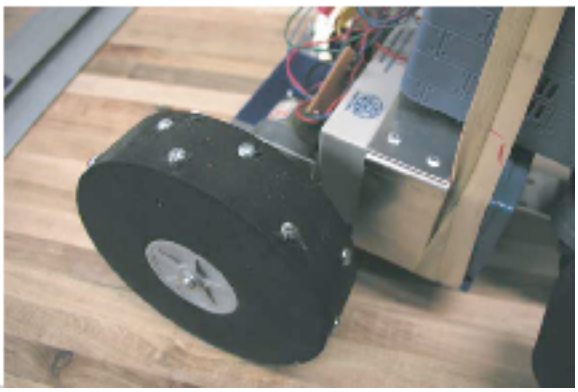

FERAL DOG DATASHEET

Species Name: Larry

Reverse Engineer: Andrew Sexton

Site of Community Interest:

Former Dry Cleaners This site is located between the Grove Street cemetary and Hammond Hall(the Yale Sculpture Facility), the Yale Police Department, and the MUDD library. There is also a playground with basketball courts along its western edge, and a bike path along it's northern edge. There are also a fair number of Yale students pass through the lot daily on their way to school. This site was of interest to me for a number of reasons:

- the number of communities it could potentially affect
- it's proximity, and therefore ease as a release site
- the suitable terrain (flat, relatively smooth packed dit, few major obsticles)
- because I am one of the people this could potentially affect

The potential danger of this site arises from the chemicals used in the dry cleaning process that may have been inappropriately disposed of. The primary danger arises from tetrachloroethylene (PERC). PERC has numerous dangerous side-effects, such as dizziness, nausea, confusion, loss of motor skills, unconciousness and death. Tests on laboratory animals show PERC has been found to cause cancerous tumors in the liver and kidneys. The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PERC may be reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen. However all of these tests have been conducted on the effects of high level exposure. There has been no testing on the effects of long-term, low level exposure, which is what we will most likely be dealing with in this situation.

The feral dog's first release site is the former dry cleaning business located behind Hammond Hall (the Yale Sculpture facility). Preliminary evaluations revealed this to be an excellant release site due to the relatively smooth, hard-packed dirt terrain, and the lack of any major obsticles. However since then we have experienced several snowfalls, most of which has melted leaving the site covered in a sheet of ice. The ice could be a major traction problem for the dogs, since they are not very heavy, and originally had smooth foam tires. I increased the traction by outfitting my dog with studded tires. This is a very simple mechanical adaptation that is cheap, quick, and easy to implement. The studs are ordinary screws that have been screwed into the tire, and fixed in place with an adhesive. I used studded tires only in the rear, for two reasons. The first being that the rear wheels are directly attached to the motor and will be providing the power to propel the dog, and thus require increased traction on the ice. The second reason was that preliminary tests with studded tires on all four wheels, showed that the studs interferred with the steering capabilities. The dogs performed much better when the front tires were able to slide a little. However if need be, the front tires can be easily outfitted with studs as well. A scientifically lesser, yet far cooler reason for the studded tires is the bad-ass Mad Max look they give the dogs, a sure-fire hit the crowds!

The stock Goddard model dog adapted by several members of the class, came with a built in suspension system. Once all the modifications were made, this system was not strong enough to support the added weight. Since the dogs were intended to be used on rugged terrain, a suspension system was desirable to aid the dog's mobility. I used the existing system, but strengthed it by adding a leaf spring. Like the studded tires this a very cheap, simple, and easy adaptation. This adaptation uses the inherant strength of a strip of aluminum to provide resistance to the vertical movement of the front tires.