

# BLINK AT HOME

## Family Pets

### How do I take care of my pets and their needs?

#### Skills to Develop

- + Science content knowledge
- + Creative thinking
- + Fine motor skills

#### Materials

- + Pet images [PDF]
- + Paper
- + Markers/paint/crayons
- + Scissors
- + Glue

### WHAT TO DO

#### Before the Learning Activity

1. Print the pet images [PDF] if desired.

#### During the Learning Activity

2. Explain that all animals have four basic needs: air, water, food, and shelter. Discuss how you and your pets meet these four basic needs in your home.
3. Look at the pet images [PDF] and read about three animals that live at the Anchorage Museum. Bearded dragons, Russian desert tortoises, and ball pythons are found as household pets. Ask: *how do these animals meet their basic needs? What do they like to eat? What do they like to do? What do they need in their perfect home?*
4. Invite your child to choose one of the museum animals and create a picture showing that animal's perfect home. As they create their picture ask questions about how that animal will meet its four basic needs in the home that they are drawing.
5. Once they have drawn the perfect home for their museum animal, invite them to cut the museum animal sketch out of the paper and glue the animal into their new home. Or invite them to draw the animal in its new home.

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#### Extend the Fun

- + Design the perfect pet home for other pets of your choice.
- + Build the perfect home for a pet or pet toys out of recycled materials.

# BLINK: FAMILY PETS

Pet images: Print and use



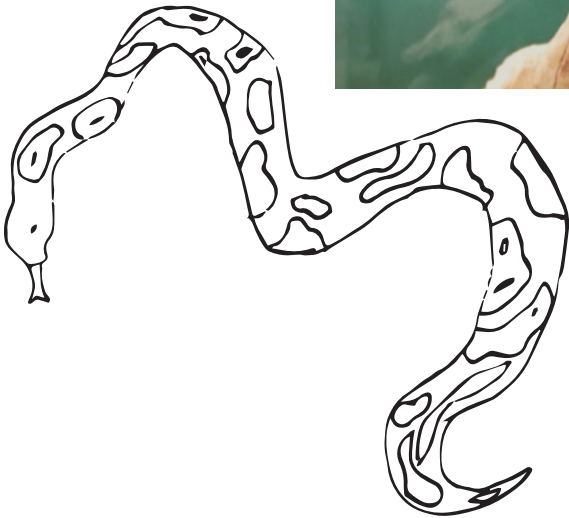
**EVREN  
THE BEARDED DRAGON**



Evren is a bearded dragon that lives at the Anchorage Museum. She was born in March 2013. In the wild, bearded dragons live in the deserts of Australia and are really great climbers. To keep her moving, Evren has a lot of branches to climb in her home at the museum, as well as a hammock where she can hang out under the warm heat lamps. Evren eats salads, berries, and insects. Her favorite food is hornworms, little blue-green caterpillars. Evren plays with balls, chases live crickets, and eats her greens out of a puzzle feeder. Evren really likes to laze around under the heat lamp, so you might want to add a warm place to hang out to her perfect home.

# BLINK: FAMILY PETS

Pet images: Print and use



## SAVANNAH AND EGGBERT THE BALL PYTHONS

Savannah and Eggbert are the ball pythons that live at the Anchorage Museum. Savannah is a female born in 1999 and Eggbert is a male born in 2004. In the wild, ball pythons live in the grasslands of western and central Africa and are strong climbers. Eggbert and Savannah like to hang out together in the little shelter in their home at the museum. Ball pythons are carnivores, and Eggbert and Savannah each eat 2-3 mice once every week or two. At the museum, Eggbert and Savannah have a climbing wall to help them flex their climbing muscles. Their perfect home would include space to hang out together under cover and plenty of things to climb.

# BLINK: FAMILY PETS

Pet images: Print and use



## SCOOBY THE RUSSIAN DESERT TORTOISE



Scooby is a female Russian desert tortoise that lives at the Anchorage Museum. She was born around 1999. In the wild, Russian desert tortoises live in the deserts and hillsides of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, China, and Kazakhstan. They are usually found near springs and brooks where it is easy to find grasses and other vegetation. Scooby is an herbivore and eats grasses, flowers, and fruit. Scooby's home at the museum has a nice place for her to dig in the dirt, which is one of her favorite things. Her home has a water bowl with low sides she can drink out of, and sometimes she likes to walk through her water bowl. Scooby's perfect home would have a house that she could go underneath and a really large dirt area for digging.