



**Featured Creature:** Bearded Dragon

**Scientific name:** *Pogona vitticeps*

**Where are they from?**

Australia

**What kind of habitat do they live in?**

They are found most often basking on rocks in the dry, arid scrubland.

**What do they eat?**

Bearded dragons are omnivores, so they eat animals and plants. Most of their animal diet consists of insects and other arthropods, but they have been known to eat an occasional mouse or smaller lizard. They also like vegetation, preferring leafy greens in captivity and any plants they can get in their dry, desert habitat.

**How big do they get?**

Nose to tail, bearded dragons can reach 16 to 24 inches in length!

**How long do they live?**

With proper care, they can live 10 to 15 years.

**Do they have any special adaptations?**

Bearded dragons have spiky scales that make them look tough, but are actually rather soft. They also inflate their throat pouch and can make it black when they are frightened in order to appear more threatening and deter predators (this is their "beard"). Their color makes them well-camouflaged in their native environment.

**Are they endangered?**

Even though bearded dragons are very popular pets, they are very easily bred in captivity and rarely collected in the wild. Thankfully, this means they are of least concern on the endangered species list.

**Fun Facts:**

Bearded dragons are sexually dimorphic, which means males and females look different. The main difference between them is size, males often reaching a full 24-inch length, while most females reach a maximum of about 18-inches. To attract the ladies, male dragons bob their heads and circle around their intended date.