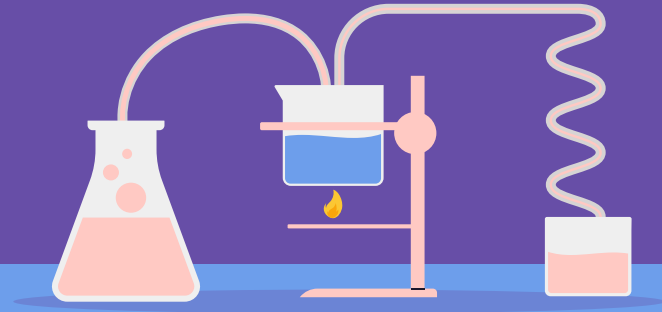


The Rakunk Project



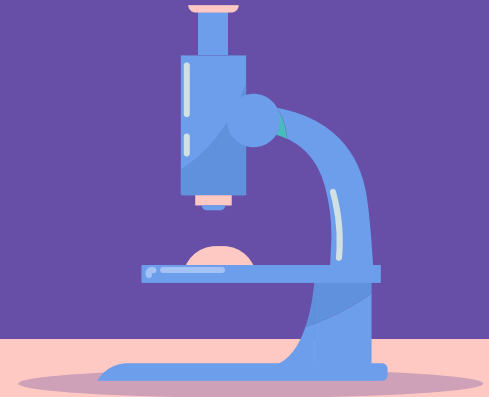
Presentation by Joanna Ignatowicz

„The rakunks had begun as an after-hours hobby on the part of one of the OrganInc biolab hotshots. There'd been a lot of fooling around in those days: create-an-animal was so much fun, said the guys doing it; **it made you feel like God.**”

Atwood

My realisation?

I happen to know a game which theoretically allows you to feel like God.



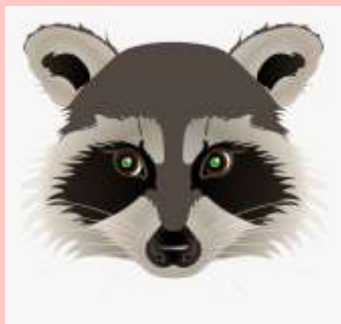
And so, I decided
to create my own
Rakunk in The
Sims 4.





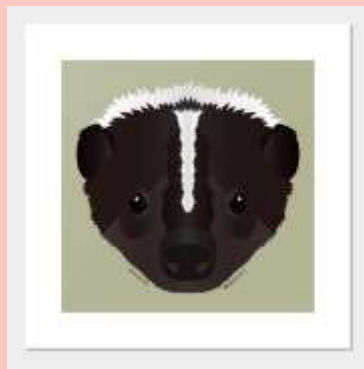
HOW DO WE CREATE SUCH AN ANIMAL?

RACCOON



+

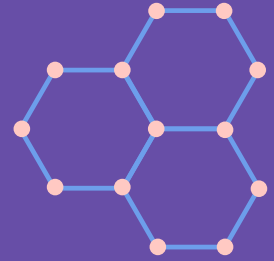
SKUNK



=

RAKUNK

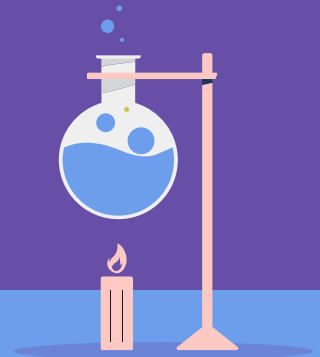
?



„...the rakunks caught on as **pets**,
inside OrganInc.,„

Atwood

First, I did some research on why do we find certain animals
adorable.



„BABY SCHEMA”



„In 1943, Austrian ethologist and zoologist **Konrad Lorenz** was the first to suggest that all infants have certain features in common that are universally appealing. They include **a large head** relative to the body, **chubby cheeks**, **a high forehead**, **a small nose and mouth**, and **rounder bodies**. We simply can't help but gravitate to anything that fits this cute blueprint, described by Lorenz as the „**baby schema**” or „**kinderschema**”.

Source: <https://www.bbcearth.com/blog/?article=the-code-for-cuteness>

CREATING THE PERFECT PET RAKUNK



Then, I decided to combine these features with the descriptions of rakunks we had in the novel. The game has some restrictions on how much you can change certain parts of the animal's body, though, so it was impossible to recreate the fluffiness of the tail. Such a shame.



The little rakunk let Jimmy pick it up. It was **black and white – black mask, white stripe down its back, black and white rings around its fluffy tail**. It licked Jimmy’s fingers, and he fell in love with it.

“No smell to it, not like a skunk,” said Jimmy’s father. “It’s a clean animal, with a nice disposition. **Placid**. Racoons never made good pets once they were grown up, they got crabby, they’d tear your house to pieces. This thing is supposed to be calmer. We’ll see how the little guy does. Right, Jimmy?”



This was the final result



„So Snowman has forgotten everything else about Jimmy’s tenth birthday except the rakunk, brought home by his father in a carry-cage. It was a tiny one, smallest of the litter born from the second generation of rakunks, the offspring of the first pair that had been spliced.”

Atwood

Probably what Killer looked like as a kit



Adult rakunk



**Thank you
for your
attention!**



CREDITS

- Rakunk created with The Sims 4 Pets Stuff Pack
- Extracts taken from Margaret Atwood's book „Oryx and Crake” (2003)
- GIFs created with ezgif.com
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