

by E.B. Adams

with coloring by

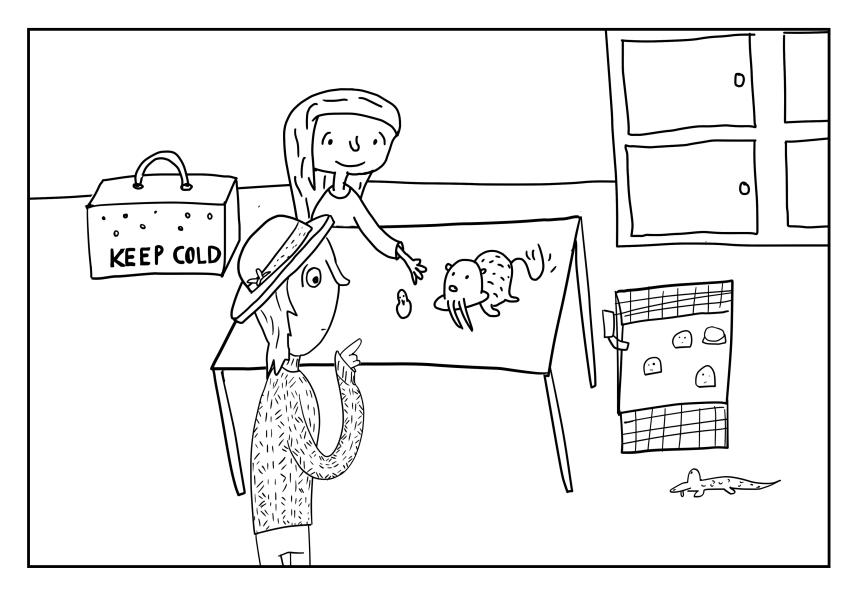


CHARLIE'S CURIOUS PET SHOP

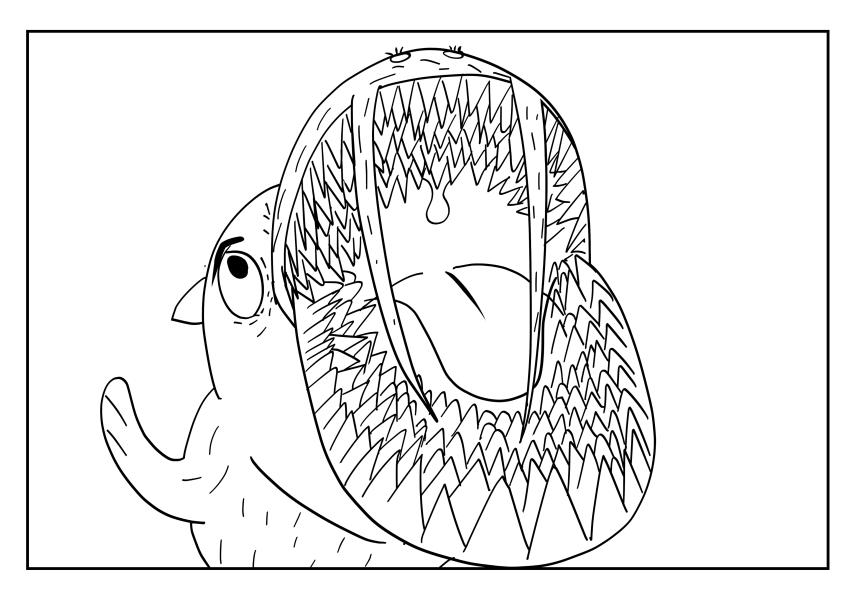


The customer had been asking many questions about the Arctic walrat.

"Charlie, how many teeth does a walrat have?"



"312," Charlie answered. "And they're very friendly," she added.
Charlie gave a Jelly Penguin to the walrat. Walrats love Jelly Penguins.



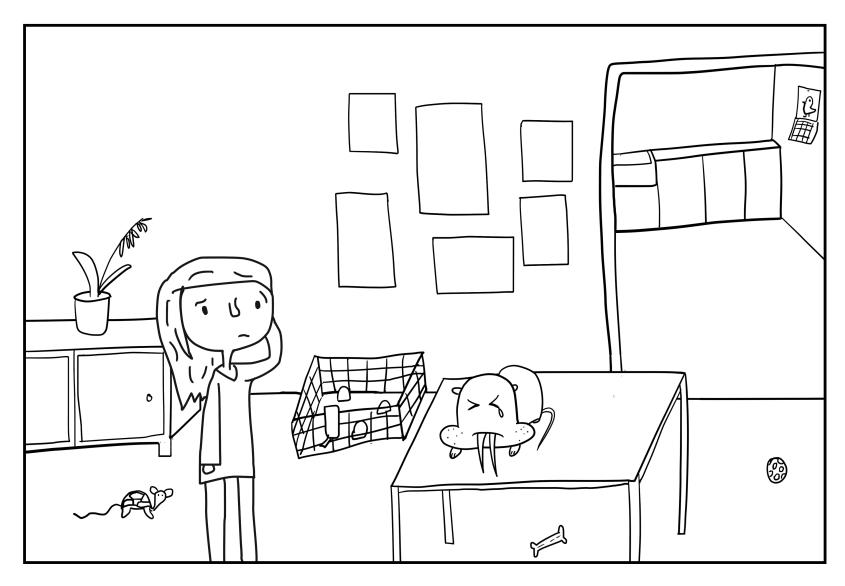
The walrat opened his jaw, revealing 312 razor sharp teeth. He gave a loud terrible shriek. This was curious.



"And frightening.

"YIKES!"

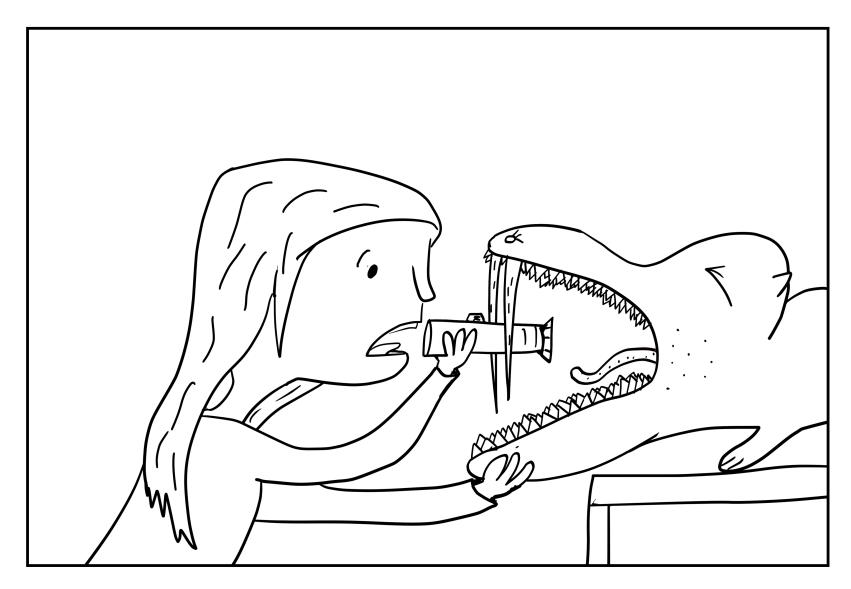
The customer fled screaming from Charlie's pet shop."



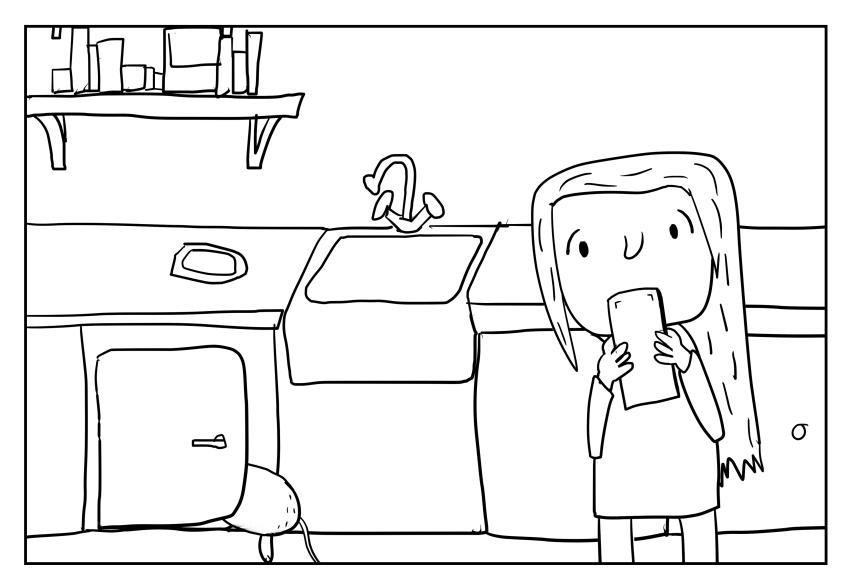
"Walrat! Screaming customers are bad for business. What's gotten into you?"

The walrat was whining and whimpering.

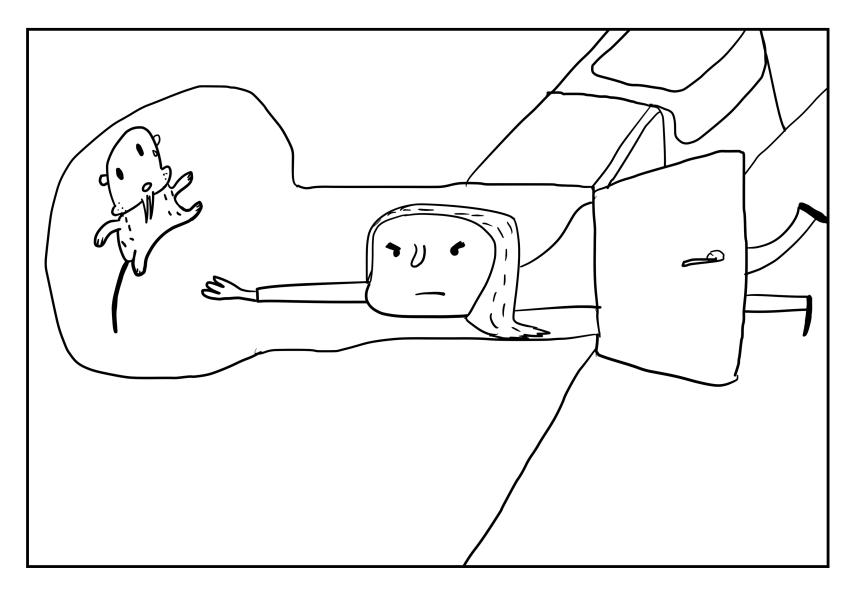
"Here, let me take a look at you," said Charlie.



Charlie examined the walrat's mouth. "Have you been brushing your teeth?" The walrat moaned. "Hmmm. I think you have cavities," she said.

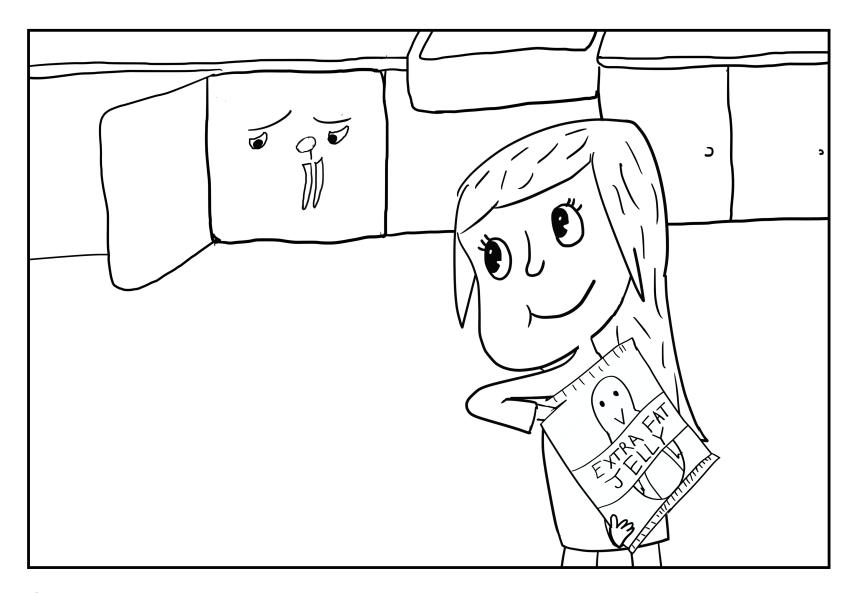


"Let me look up Doctor Jone's address. She's a very good dentist," said Charlie. Charlie turned around, "Walrat? Walrat!?"



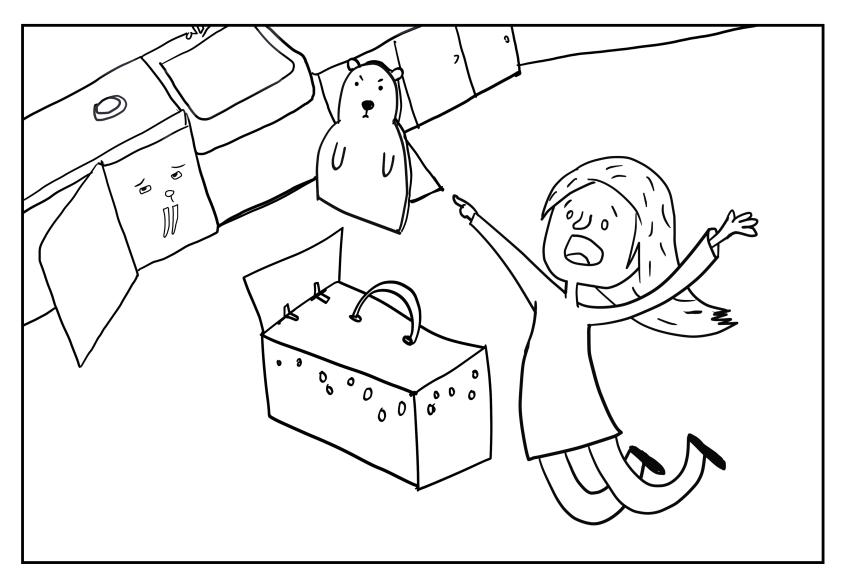
The one thing walrats fear more than polar bears are dentists.

"Come out of there right now or you'll be in big trouble Mister Walrat. No more episodes of Arctic Wild for a week!" Charlie tried threats

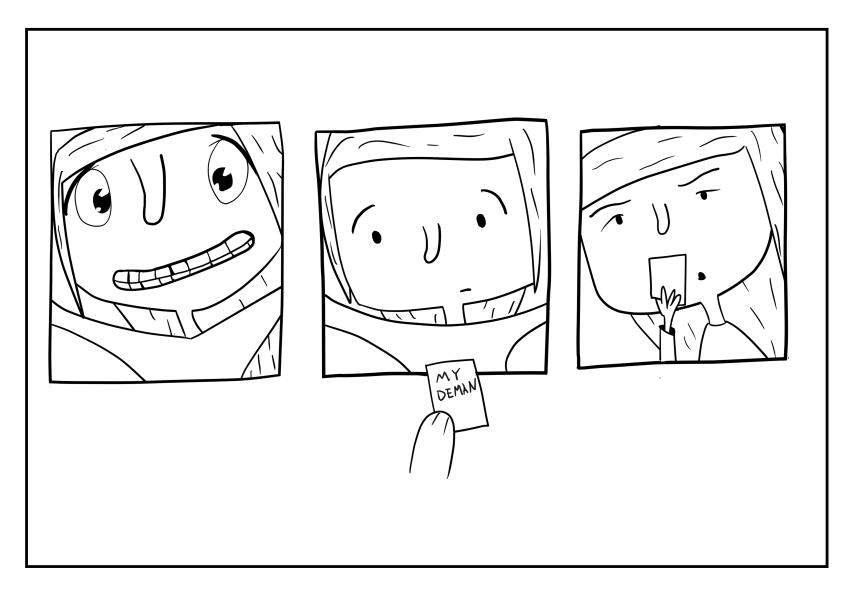


Charlie tried bribes.

"Look, yummy gummy Jelly Penguins! Mmmm.. They're so yummy. Would you like to come out and have some?"



Charlie tried a false sense of urgency. "GASP! It's a polar bear, quick, hide in the box!"



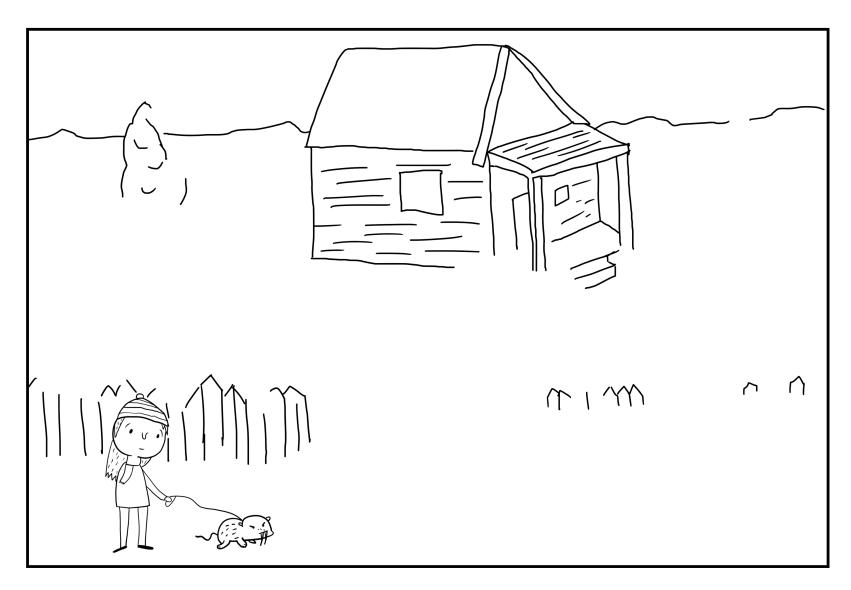
"Please walrat! Please. Pleases. Pleassssse!" Charlie begged and used logic, "It's for your own good." Finally, it was Charlie who agreed.

[&]quot;Fine. I promise!" said Charlie and the walrat came out.



Charlie closed up the shop and took the walrat on a walk to the dentist.

The sidewalks were icy and frozen.



They were almost to the dentist's house when their path was blocked by snow and ice.

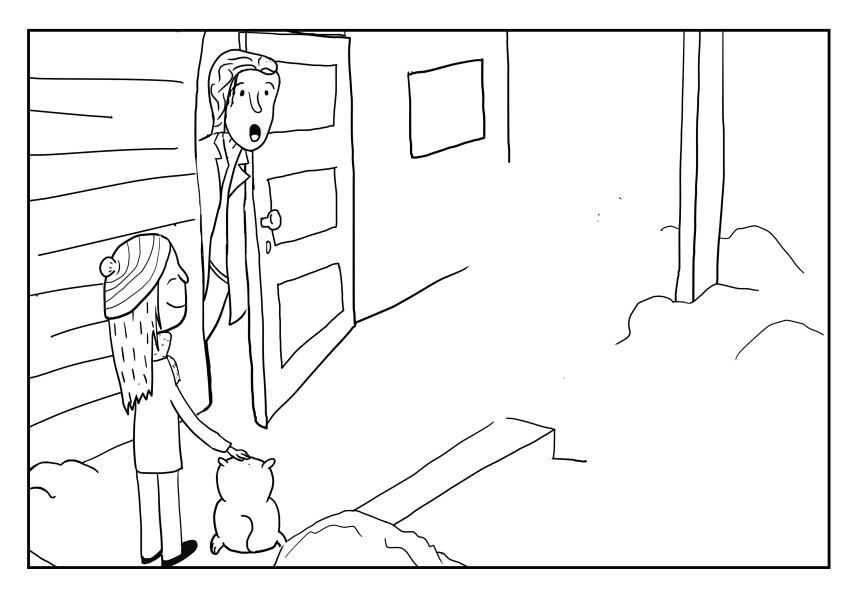
"Drat! I don't think we can go today. Let's go back home," said Charlie.

But if there's one thing the walrat is excellent at, it's...



Digging through snow.

The walrat chewed through the ice and snow as if he was munching on Jelly Penguins. In two minutes, they were ringing the doorbell.



Doctor Jones was surprise. "Charlie! I wasn't expecting anyone to come today. How did you get through the snow?" Charlie patted the walrat, "Arctic walrats are excellent at digging through snow."

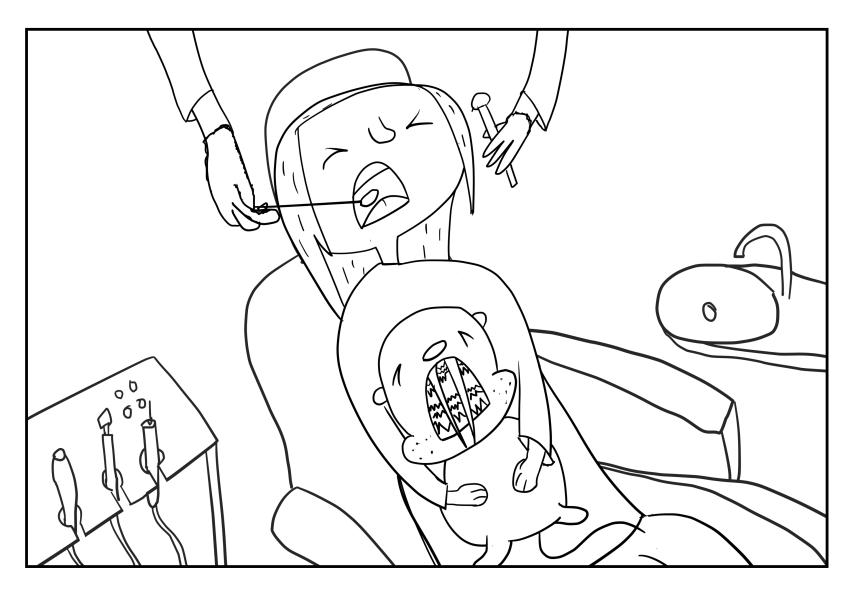
Doctor Jones was impressed. She invited them inside.



"Doctor Jones, I think the walrat has cavities," said Charlie.

"I can see him right now," said Doctor Jones. "How about you Charlie?" Walrat tugged on Charlie's trousers.

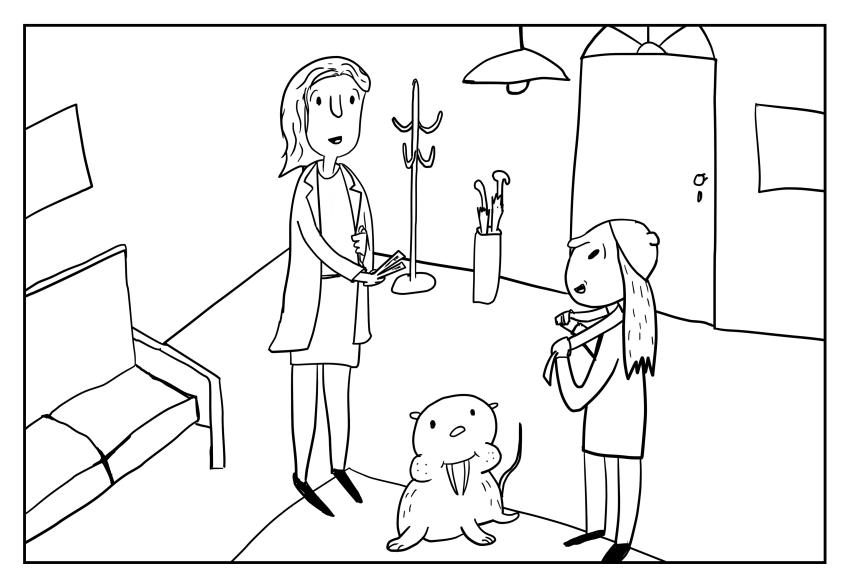
"Well, I promised the walrat I would join him. Could I get a check up?"



Walrat and Charlie sat together in the dentist's chair. Together, neither were scared. At least not that much.

[&]quot;You have beautiful teeth Walrat. And not bad, only two cavities," said Doctor Jones.

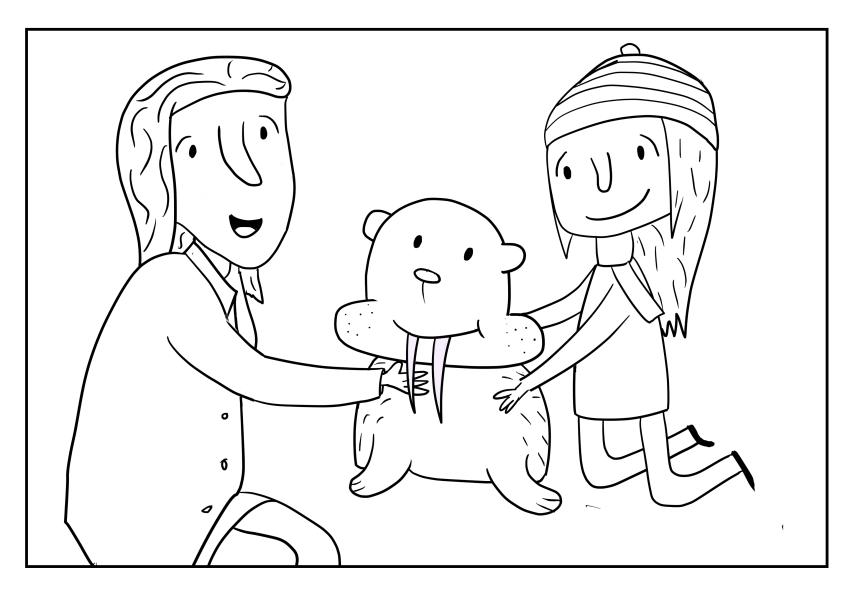
[&]quot;But Charlie, have you been flossing?"



Charlie and the walrat felt much better and thanked Doctor Jones. She gave them toothbrushes.

"Are walrats friendly creatures?" asked Doctor Jones.

Charlie smiled, "Yes! They make great pets."



Doctor Jones smiled, "Good at clearing snow and such beautiful teeth. You know Charlie, I think I must have this walrat and I'm going to name him Snowy."

And from then on, the one thing Snowy loved more than Jelly Penguins, were dentists.