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Dare to Know

Funny Animal Comics

Comics that feature anthropomorphic animals.

A genre in which talking animals with human-like personality traits and abilities are depicted in a wide variety of scenarios that provide broadly comic, frequently satirical commentary on human nature. While many stories can be light-hearted and humorous, and provide slapstick farce or witty situational comedy, funny animals comics are not exclusively comedic. Stories with dark and serious themes, such as sociopolitical conflict, ethnic differences, and ideological complexities, can also be grouped into this genre. Characters may represent qualities normally attributed to animals: dogs are loyal, wolves are merciless, weasels deceitful, and reptiles venomous. Conversely, writers may subvert the normal expectations and depict animals as opposites of their anticipated roles. The characters may be endearingly cute innocents or morally ambiguous allegories, and their creators can bring imaginative narrative and thematic sophistication to stories. Prior to the 1930s, titles were often directed at adult audiences and featured mature themes, surrealism, and complex word play. The genre then began shifting to younger readers. The underground comix movement of the late 1960s began subverting the innocence of the genre as it existed at the time. The subject matter was created largely for mature audiences. The funny animal genre can cross over into that of **historical comics**, **humorous comics**, **science fiction comics**, **superhero comics**, and **Western comics**. James “Jimmy” Swinnerton’s *The Little Bears* (1893-1897) and *Mr. Jack* (1903-1935), Arthur White and Mabel F. Taylor’s *Jungle Jinks* (1898-1947), George Herriman’s *Krazy Kat* (1913-1944), Pat Sullivan, Otto Messmer, and Joe Oriolo’s *Felix the Cat* (1923-1966), Dell Comics’ *Four Color Comics* (1939-1962) and *Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories* (1940-1962), Chad Grothkopf’s *Hoppy the Marvel Bunny* (1942-1947), Walt Kelly’s *Pogo* (1948-1975), René Pepo Ríos’ *Condorito* (1949-ongoing), and Robert Crumb’s *Fritz the Cat* (1965-1972) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Human-like mannerisms	Animals with occupations	Speaking in human languages
Bipedal walking	Animals engaged in human activities	Thought balloons
The wearing of clothes		Displaying facial expressions
Drive or ride vehicles		

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>The Boulevard of Broken Dreams</i> (2002) by Kim Deitch	<i>Bugs Bunny: What’s Up, Doc?</i> (2005) by Craig Boldman et al.
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<i>The Collected Adventures of Captain Jack</i> (1995) by Mike Kazaleh	<i>The Marvelous Adventures of McConey: Slalom</i> (2018) by Lewis Trondheim
<i>The Collected "Omaha" the Cat Dancer</i> (1988) by Reed Walter and Kate Worley	<i>Max Hamm, Fairy Tale Detective</i> (2005) by Frank Cammuso
<i>The Collected Sam and Max: Surfin' the Highway</i> (1995) by Steve Purcell	<i>Mickey Mouse: Race to Death Valley</i> (2011) by Floyd Gottfredson
<i>The Complete Calvin and Hobbes</i> (2005) by Bill Watterson	<i>Pride of Baghdad</i> (2014) by Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrichon
<i>The Complete Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck</i> (2010) by Don Rosa	<i>Robot Dreams</i> (2007) by Sara Varon
<i>Conrad</i> (1985) by Bill Schorr	<i>Rocky Volume 1: The Big Payback</i> (2005) by Martin Kellerman
<i>Donald Duck: Lost in the Andes</i> (2011) by Carl Banks	<i>Snoopy: A Beagle of Mars</i> (2020) by Charles M. Schultz et al.
<i>Dungeon: Early Years Volumes 1-2: The Night Shirt</i> (2021) by Lewis Trondheim and Joann Sfar	<i>Sweaterweather</i> (2016) by Sara Varon
<i>Garfield: Trouble in Paradise</i> (2018) by Jim Davis et al.	<i>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Collected Book Volume 1</i> (2009) by Kevein Eastman and Peter Laird
<i>I Killed Adolf Hitler</i> (2007) by Jason	<i>Trickster</i> (2008) by Matt Dembicki
<i>Isle of 100,000 Graves</i> (2011) by Fabien Vehlmann and Jason	<i>Trots and Bonnie</i> (2020) by Shary Flenniken
<i>Maakies</i> (2000) by Tony Millionaire	<i>Usagi Yojimbo Book 1: The Ronin</i> (1987) by Stan Sakai
	<i>We3: The Deluxe Edition</i> (2011) by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely