● *Intolerance Of Intolerance*

-The Furry Phenomenon

~ By Relinquishedpain

Introduction

First of all let us point out this will forever be a work in progress, as points are brought up, things will be added to this article, but we'll never remove sections. This is meant to be an informative reflection into what it really means to be furry. We have been furry for many years, even before we knew what it meant, though once we became active in the community we became more aware of the media's take of furry, versus the furry take of it.

If you've been exposed to one or the other, you have probably been told only half the story. The media likes to take the most extreme examples of furries they can find, and say "These freaks are furries, and that's all there is." But on the flip side, a furry rebuttal will consist of pointing at those examples, and saying, "Oh those are one in a billion, you just 'happen' to find the worst of us where you go looking."

So in response to this, we present the following, which is simply our attempt to shed some light on the subject, so let's get started!

Part one: You are (most likely) a furry!

As we begin, we feel the need to express the knowledge that some of you may be saying to yourselves "I am not one of you filthy freaks!" but before you panic, give us a moment to explain just what a 'Furry' really is.

Furry, as it pertains to the fandom, simply means that you share a common interest in anthropomorphic animals. That's all, this interest can be as bland as enjoying a cartoon that happens to have anthro animals in it, or as extreme as the stories you may have heard from major media outlets. Many non furries, and yes, some furries as well, may not have heard the word anthropomorphic before. It simply means giving human characteristics or traits, to 'anything' that isn't human.

This can apply to a great many things, most of which are more prevalent in cartoons, movies, books, and other works of fiction. For example some old timey cartoons had furniture that had faces, and sometimes could talk and move on their own, this is considered anthropomorphism. The same can be said for simpler changes, Tom and Jerry, Bugs bunny, Mickey Mouse, and other famous animal cartoon characters that could talk, run around, and otherwise live human like lives and antics, are also considered anthropomorphic.

Zoomorphism also pertains to the furry fandom in that it can mean to giving animal characteristics to an otherwise human character. Specific examples of zoomorphism include werewolves and vampires. Both of these terms essentially mixing the human species, with one or more animal species, in any subtle or extreme way.

So now that we know the terms, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic species, characters, and concepts, are what draw the furry fandom together. This is our common interest. It doesn't matter if you draw them, look at them, watch them on the screen, write about them or read about them, if you have an interest in them at all, you can call yourself a furry.

Part Two: What do I do now?

Now? You do, whatever you want to do. The furry fandom is voluntary, you can enjoy a cartoon about furry characters, and not call yourself furry. Unlike some other fandoms, ours is a label you cannot force on anyone. It is one you choose to accept, or you don't.

However, if you are interested in becoming a furry, or if you have concerns about someone you know that happens to consider themselves a furry, let us explain some of the more common aspects of the fandom.

1) Fursonas: Most who call themselves a furry, will adopt a fursona. This, is simply a furry representation of yourself. A fursona is how you perceive your furry self. It is not changing who you are, it is simply making a 'furry' version of yourself. For example, if you think about animals, you may find one that you feel you connect with, someone who thinks of themselves as powerful, intelligent, and larger than life, may connect with a bear. As such, they may express themselves as a bear around other furries. Whereas a person who sees themselves as loyal, playful and friendly, may take their favorite breed of dog as their fursona.

2) Language: This one is a bit more subtle, and is more tailored per species. Many furries, after adopting a fursona, may change the way they greet other furries, and instead of saying hello or any variation thereof, may greet each other with a yip, in the case of some canines, sometimes a meow in the case of some felines, and etc.

3) Fursuiting: Now, this is one that many may already have some knowledge of, and may have a positive, or negative opinion of depending on their exposure. The fur suit is simply a physical representation of a fursona, that can be worn like clothes. If you have no idea what a fur suit might look like, think along the lines of a sports team's mascot if their mascot happens to be an animal. Granted, this is less prevalent today, but, it is the best example we could think of. Reasons for wearing a fur suit can vary, and can be anything from a desire to express their furry self more thoroughly, to wanting to show off one's fursona in a more public setting, to (as some of you may already know) having sex. (But more on that later.)

Being furry, is a different experience for everyone. Due to its very open, and very broad nature,

there are a thousand different ways, and a thousand different reasons to be furry. We come from all walks of life, from all parts of the globe, all nationalities, faiths, rich, poor, it doesn't matter who you are, if you share our common interest, we welcome you.

We as a community do not judge others, because we are brought together by our common interest, and by its very nature, diversity is our strength. With that said, yes, there are furries who also group themselves by other interests, and yes, we also disagree on many things.

To use a real world example, you can take two Christians who have nothing in common other than their faith, and they may hate each other in any other setting, but put them in the same church, and they will act with at least some civility towards each other because of their common respect of faith.

Furries, are just like everyone else, we are each different, we have our unique tastes, interests, personalities, and trust us when we say, not all furries are desirables. This counts, even among furries, every fandom, regardless its source, will have members that the fandom as a whole would love to lock away in a little room where no one can see them. Ever.

For the most part, if you've ever seen a furry in the media telling you all about their depraved furry lifestyle... they belonged to this group. That said, the furry fandom as a whole, has no written laws or rules. We do not discriminate, we do not hate anyone else for their interests, we encourage expressing who you really are instead of hiding behind the masks we all wear in public. We simply want, what any other special interest group wants, to be left alone. There are bad people among us, yes, that is true, but that does not mean the rest of us are bad.

Part Three: The dark side of the furry fandom.

Alright, some of you may still have your negative opinions of the fandom, and you have every right to feel that way, but let us lastly try to clear up some of the misconceptions about the fandom, that the media and anti-furry groups love to try and push.

1) You furries are all about sex!

We've heard this a million times, and we are certain to hear it a million more before we die. But here's the thing, human beings in general, love sex. That's just the way things are, the only thing that stops most people from becoming sexual deviants, are legal issues, and cultural or religious taboos.

In the furry fandom, we cultivate the individual, among furries, you are welcome to be whoever and whatever you want to be. Because furry is entirely fantasy, anything that happens between consenting adults, is just that. There are no consequences so long as cyber security laws are not broken in the process, which means that so long as you can find someone who shares a particular interest, you can explore it in a free environment where no one can get hurt.

Let us also note here, that it is generally accepted among anti-fur groups that fursuits are for sex, and nothing else. But can you imagine trying to have sex in a bulky, heavy costume that you would sweat in just walking? Let's just say that the act is 'very' difficult, and most fur suitors', wouldn't even consider the idea let alone got through with it. It does happen... but it's not nearly as prevalent as some would try to make you believe.

All that said, sexual inhibition and limitation abound in human culture, those who wish to explore, cannot for fear of persecution, and in some cases incarceration. We won't lie to you, there are many furries who are in it, almost purely for the sexual freedom part of it, and we accept that.

For every furry in it for the sex, we have met a furry who either has a partner, and is loyal to them, or has little to no interest in sex whatsoever due to their own personal issues, or age, or what have you. The only difference between the furry fandom, and everywhere else, is that we accept human nature for what it is. The internet gives us a perfectly safe place to be who we want to be, regardless what that means.

2) Don’t lie to me, you furries just want to have sex with animals!

Furries being defined above, let us define exactly what beastiality is. Beastiality, or zoophilia, is the act or desire to have sex with animals, not anthropomorphic animals, just regular, find them in the backyard animals.

Furries as a whole do not condone beastiality, yes, it is present in the fandom, but it is as rare among furries as it is among non furries. When it comes to furries who are sexually interested, it’s the human side, not the animal side that is interested in the sex.

Humans have sex for pleasure, animals in general do not (barring dolphins and a few other mammalian species). Furphilia, and zoophilia may seem very similar to non furries, but to us, the two are as different as black and white.

3) You furverts are corrupting my (insert friend or family member here)

Everything said above aside, many people believe that being furry is like being homosexual, and some have the strangest ideas about it being a disease that must be cured through whatever means necessary.

If everything above has not convinced you, let us try to delve into human nature a bit more. We as a species, are curious, but we are also fearful. Human beings will investigate anything that peaks their interest, and will run away from anything that frightens them.

That said, again, the furry fandom is entirely fantasy, this isn't something that you can put into someone else's head. If someone calls themselves a furry, it's because they and they alone decided to explore it, and regardless what that means for them, or you, it is a part of who they are, and you can either accept it, or you can hate them for it, but if you choose the latter please ask yourself... Are they really a different person because you found out they are a furry?

Part four: The conclusion!

At this point, we've said everything we feel needs to be said, and honestly, it doesn't matter to us what your opinion of us may be, because in the end, furries are everywhere, and our open minded nature and community, means that no matter where we go, we have friends.

We aren't out to hurt anyone, we don't want to bother anyone, we simply wish to express ourselves in a way that we cannot anywhere else for whatever reason happens to be limiting us at the time. We are here, and though the invention of the internet has brought us closer together than ever before, you can see evidence of the 'furry' nature of human beings as far back as Egyptian mythology.

We hope that this has given you a new understanding, and hopefully lessened any negativity towards furries you may have had, but even if it hasn't, we won't judge you until you judge us. The only thing furries are intolerant of, is intolerance.

If you agree with the purpose and message of this document, you may feel free to post a link to it whenever and wherever you like, please do not repost the document itself as it is still a work in progress, things may continue to be added over time including a FAQ if necessary, but nothing will be removed.

As we may not be present where links exist, you may feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, etc at Relinquishedpain@yahoo.com Please make the subject “The Furry Phenomenon” so that we know not to delete it as spam.

Positive, ‘and’ negative criticism is welcome, but any direct flaming will be ignored, consider yourself notified.