

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
Bipedal walking
The wearing of clothes

Drive or ride vehicles
Animals with occupations

Animals engaged in human activities
Speaking in human languages

Thought balloons

Displaying facial
expressions

Graphic Novel Examples

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