

C. Elliot Ritter

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Birth Date: 27 October 1978

Hometown: Jeffersonville, Indiana (Across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky)

Currently Living: Same

Occupation: Pizza Delivery for Pizza Magia

Siblings: Two Brothers, One Sister

Pets: Sadie (Black Longhair Cat), Mini-Me (White & Grey Shorthair Cat), and Dudley Moore (Jack Russell Terrier)



My Avatar:

My avatar is the squadron symbol from the 8th Fighter Wing “Wolf Pack” in Kunsan, Republic of Korea. I took the image from the Kunsan Air Force Base web site, but I’m pretty sure it’s not in copyright.

Let’s get right to the heart of the matter ...

I came into liking Furrries years ago, as most ‘Furrries’ have. I remember admiring Mrs. Brisby in *The Secret of NIMH* and reading *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIHM* and *Rosco and the Rats of NIMH* in middle school. There was the crush on Gadget from *The Rescue Rangers* in the early 1990’s. I guess it was when I was eighteen and still found characters like Minerva Mink and a one-shot character in *Tiny Toons* named “Julie Bruin” attractive that I began to wonder if I was more “different” than I thought. Since such characters are rare I never gave it another thought beyond being weird.

It wasn’t until 2002 that I learned that I’m not as big of a freak as I thought I was. I decided to look for a reference picture for a character named Deborah Moore who’s a cat-woman. After Googling for a picture several times with different searches I found a picture on Yerf that worked well and started browsing that archive for other pictures like the first. After looking at non-feline characters (the lemurs from Candy Palmer, I recall) and thinking that “hey even these are pretty good looking” I decided that I liked this style of art. Eventually I found a picture there named “not-nakie” that had a link to the corresponding “nakie” on VCL. From there and after several other Google searches I learned more vernacular and the depths of the Furry Fandom. It went downhill from there...

As for my “level of ‘Furrieness’” I’ll say this: I think “lifestylers” and “fursuiters” need psychiatric help. Mainly I like the art, writing and, as an extension of writing, the “what ifs” of them existing. Truthfully I dislike the label “Furry” for both myself as a fan and characters. I don’t really like labeling myself “Furry” since it leads to people thinking of the image Mass Media has given it. For the characters it’s because I just think it’s silly; what race would call themselves that? I like using “Zooform” in my writing since I assume that they are really modified humans, but that is still artificial — like calling the natives of the Americas “Indians” or “Native American” when they really want to be called “Cherokee”, “Navajo”, etc. In my Terrae setting they’ve accepted Genah as a species name and “Vulpid”, “Felid”, etc. as their race names, but it only fits that setting.

I don’t think in my lifetime I’ll ever see genetic engineering reach the level required to make, or society accepting enough to allow, our beloved Zooforms; not at least like we’d like with a comely form and human-normal intellect. Maybe if we get Gibsonian virtual reality we’ll see and touch them, but that’s as far off as the actual meat version. In the end the closest I, and any of us, will get is in our minds, and maybe that’s for the better since reality always falls short of fantasy.