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Furries: The Emergence of the Modern-Day Anthropomorphism Culture

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Furries: The Emergence of the Modern-Day Anthropomorphism Culture

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Introduction

Everyone has their hobbies; within each of our hobbies, we take on a slightly different personality or persona. In the case of furries, their alternate personality is a “fursona,” in which their personality changes based on the theme of a certain animal. There are several different possibilities as to how this fandom has arisen over the past three decades:

- The development of **INTERNET CULTURE**
- Adaptation to evolving **SOCIETAL PRESSURE**, a new coping mechanism involved with mental health / wellbeing
- An animal-inspired **SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**, a spiritual successor to native american animal totems

Likely, it is a mix of all three of these factors, and all blend together to make-up this unique and fascinating part of cultures worldwide.

The Internet

The internet has provided a medium for which people can express themselves to others while still maintaining a level of anonymity. Due to the nature of the internet, people become capable of enjoying the benefits of social interaction, without any of the risks of embarrassment or judgement. Watching YouTube vloggers, tuning into Twitch streams, or being a part of discussion threads on Reddit, 4Chan, Tumblr, etc. are all examples of similar activities.

Societal Pressures

There have been many increasing stressors worldwide the current youth will soon have to face. Increasing expectations to be accepted by prestigious colleges is one example, (alongside it’s rising relative cost, accounting for inflation,) another is addressing global warming, and of course, the all-too relevant COVID-19.

Mental health awareness and wellbeing has also followed this trend. One of the best ways to address our mental health needs is to be involved within supportive communities, and tend to subconsciously drift towards those social groups. The furry fandom might have naturally developed from the need to connect with others.

The “Furry Scale”



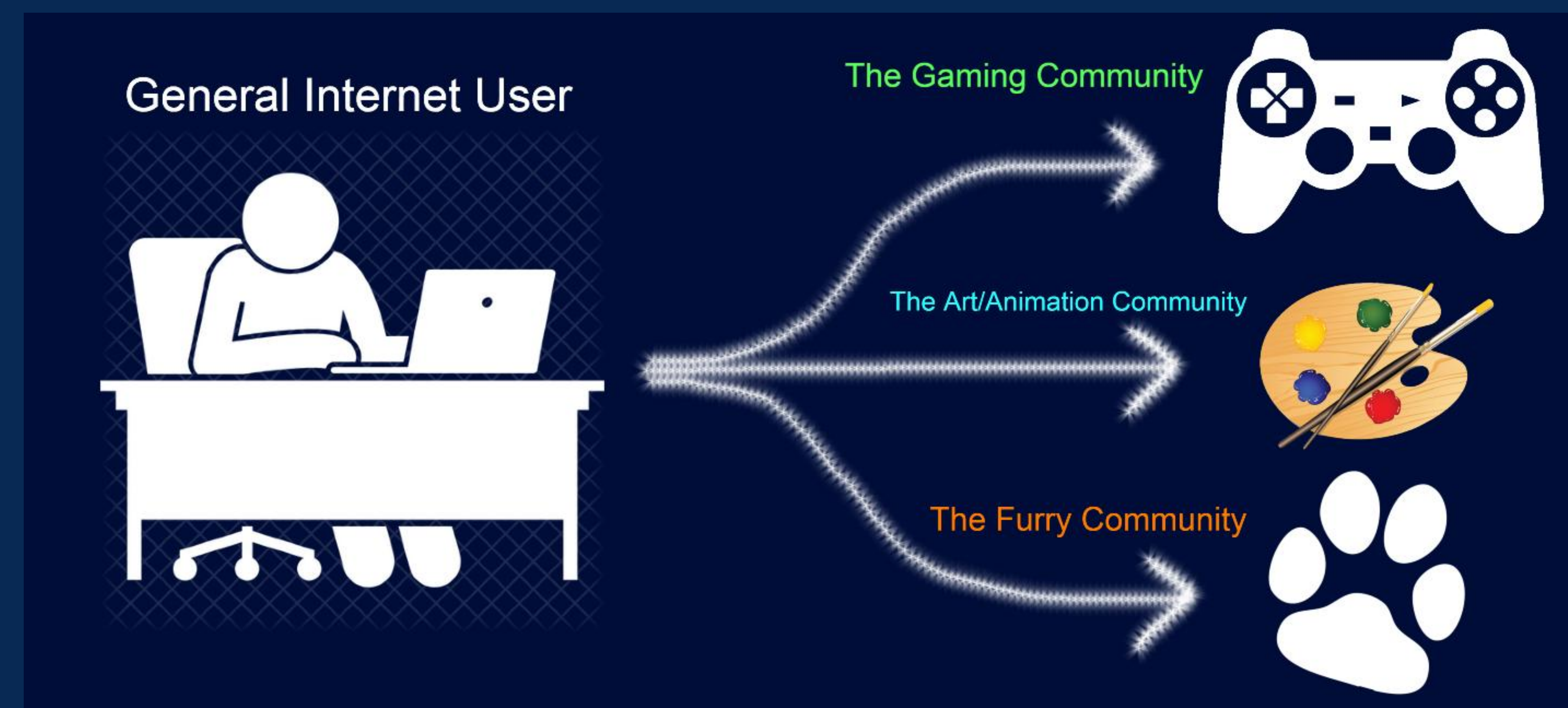
The “Furry Scale” is a common internet meme that tries to discern animal cosplay from being a furry. However, this is somewhat offensive to furries; any “percentage” of animal featuristics is accepted as furry.

Spiritual/Religious Reawakening

Worldwide, most religions traditionally frown upon homosexuality and non-cisgender beliefs and practices. As homosexuality has become more widely accepted globally, furries might have arisen as a result to break away from conventional spiritual beliefs, and align themselves to a belief more true to themselves. Instead of a strict following of a humanoid God, furries choose to more closely follow their inner nature. This inner nature is represented as a specific animal, and it somewhat follows a transcendentalist belief in the beauty of the human spirit and nature above other outside influences.

While furries accept being human, they also believe that there are certain “wild” or “animalistic” characteristics within their inner spirit. There are many ways that furries might try to outwardly display their inner animal, but it is not a requirement to dress up in a fursuit, as they are infamously known for. Simply acknowledging one’s inner spirit is enough.

Differentiation of Internet Users



The furry fandom is likely another internet-derived community. As a person spend more time online, they tend to become involved in communities with similar interests in a virtual space.

