

MEGAPLEX!

FURRY CON
AS SEEN ON

TV

Toyland Catalog
(It's really the con book)

FULL
OF
WIN!

INSIDE!



X-RAY SPECS:

These are Pawsome! See through clothing
and have everybody think your some retarded pervert!
They will ask "WTF man, why are you being stupid?"

No. MP#420.....\$1.50 Each



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Windup Novelty you wear
like a ring. Your victim gets
a "SHOCKING" paw shake.
Uses 700 amp of power.
Or 6 Car Batteries
Also doubles as a
personal massager.

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Shoots Real Bullets! Fun at Parties!
Solves all problems!!
LOTS OF FUN AND LAUGHS!!!

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COMPUTER:

Like in Star Trek!
Get Fun E-Mail and Interwebz!
Tell the world your secrets!
Make fun of people without
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you did not mean "them!"
Ignore E-mail and pretend you
did not get it, and they can
pretend to believe you!
Free Drama Apps!
Years of fun!
Free Fat!



No. MP#001.....\$999.99 Each

POO POO CUSHION:

Who calls it a Poo Poo Cushion?
Honestly?

No. MP#407.....\$1 Each



FAKE DOG DOO:

Yea, we went there.
You know you had some at
one point. Don't even pretend
you didn't. I had some.
Loved it! :)

No. MP#2012.....\$1 Each



MEGAPLEX PROD. CORP. ORLANDO FLORIDA

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may not return anything cause this is just
a Con Book Cover. But seriously folks, have a great weekend. You came to laugh, have drinks,
see friends, and be furry. If there is ANYTHING you need please contact a staff member.
Your happiness is our mission. We love you, and have fun! Don't make fun of other conventions.
Dance, play, and PLEASE try not to break anything! Lots of weekend fun awaits you! Drink Responsibly.

Name & Number of Item	How Many	Total

Name
Address

ZIP

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

MEGAPLEX



ANTHROPOMORPHIC CONVENTION

Con Chairmen

John "K.P." Cole

Randy "Yappy Fox" Fox

Programming Director

Dan "Jackrabbit" Boatwright

Operations Director

Karl "Carl Fox" Meyers

Art Director

Jess "Lynxcat" Bonn

Nicole "AnimeCat" Holland

Promotions

Dan "Jackrabbit" Boatwright

Registration

Randy "Yappy Fox" Fox

Registration Assistants

Ford Shepherd

Wolfpac

Web Site

Randy "Yappy Fox" Fox

Santa Fox

Treasurer

Jim "Rasvar" Mogle

Volunteers

Karl "Carl Fox" Meyers

Hotel Liason

Randy "Yappy Fox" Fox

Sponsor Suite

Dan "Brace Bear" Neuman

Josh "Jaded Fox" Strom

Security

Patrick "Mach" Dowden

STAFF

Con Book

Jess "Lynxcat" Bonn

Dealers' Room

Genesis "Gen" Whitmore

Charity Auction

Dan "Jackrabbit" Boatwright

Art Track

Nicole "AnimeCat" Holland

Fursuit Track Coordinators

Wild Wolf

Takala

Puppet Track Coordinator

Santa Fox

Variety Show

Josh "Jaded Fox" Strom

Gaming

Thomas "Salen Stormwing" Prince

Photography

Brad "Ronin Otter" Bonn

Fursuit Paparazzi

Jesse "Fafner" Hartman

Video Documentation

Michel Mephit

Audio/Visual

Randy "Yappy Fox" Fox

Matthew "STiTcH" Pence

Harley "EagleBeagle" Rifkin

A NOTE FROM OUR SPONSOR

Welcome to this year's Megaplex! Wow! We are up to #8!

We would like to thank everyone for all the support that we have received over our new move to Kissimmee. To be sure, we've had some great memories in Jacksonville, and it's with reluctance that we had to say goodbye to the wonderful staff at the Wyndham, the relationships that we have built with the nearby merchants and Jacksonville Landing. We hope that the return to Central Florida will help us create equally great memories for Megaplex 8!

Our new location will offer many new and exciting things, with some special opportunities we'd like to point out to our attendees:

- The hotel is in close proximity to lots of restaurants. We hope you'll like the variety.
- We are close to many Orlando area attractions and theme parks.
- We're having a special excursion to the Kissimmee Funspot on Sunday! We've negotiated a group rate of \$17.50+tax per person for full day armbands - that means you can ride all you want! You don't need an armband to get into Funspot, but since each ride can be between \$6 and \$9, the armband makes it a really good deal. You'll also be able to play a round of Blacklight Mini Golf next door for just \$2 when you show your armband. And it'll be fully FURSUIT FRIENDLY! You'll need to buy in advance, and here's how: starting at 11am on Friday, we'll be taking registrations for them (cash only please) at a special registration desk, up until 2pm on Saturday. The event will officially run from 10am to noon, but you can stay at the Funspot as long as you like.
- On Monday, we have also arranged a special bowling event for attendees who don't want the fun to stop! You'll be able to bowl in or out of fursuit.

A quick note: BE ON ALERT! In your hotel room, you may find flyers shoved under your door for pizza delivery. Please, beware - these are not legitimate businesses. The phone number on the flyer is a cell phone. When you call it to place your order, they take a \$3 pizza bought at wholesale club, shove it in a microwave, and then deliver it to your room for \$15 (plus a TIP if you opt to TIP the delivery person.) These "establishments" are not certified by health inspectors and sell inexpensive frozen products at outrageously high prices. If you want pizza, we recommend calling one of the legitimate pizzerias located in the local phone book or in our restaurant guide. There's even a Pizza Hut right in our hotel!

We also want to take a quick moment to remind everyone that sprinkler heads are not good places to hang or attach things! Please, don't try to hang or attach anything to a sprinkler or fire suppression device. It makes Santa Claws very unhappy.

So on behalf of everyone here at Megaplex, we welcome you to Megaplex 8! Come and celebrate the joys of toys...because it's Christmas in July!

Sincerely,
John "K.P." Cole, Chairman

CONTACTS AND POLICY

MISSION

To provide to our membership a celebration of interactive art and performance, with a primary focus on anthropomorphics and fantasy.

VISION

To be recognized by our membership as providing the highest quality programming, and to encourage return memberships through consistent quality and value.

The MegaPlex Staff would like to ensure everyone have a safe, sane, and fun convention. We ask that you please follow the convention safety and security policies outlined in this booklet. In general, if everyone shows respect and good manners to fellow convention attendees and the hotel facility and staff, then there will be few, if any, problems. We want everyone to enjoy!

While at MegaPlex 7, you agree to abide by the policies of the convention. The senior members of the convention staff will resolve any disputes or questionable events. Their decision will be final. The convention security staff will issue warnings if they observe violations. Serious or repeat offenders will have their convention membership revoked without refund and will be asked to leave immediately.

PLEX, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Randy Fox
Vice President: John Cole
Secretary: Dan Boatwright
Treasurer: James Mogle
Board: Karl F. Meyers

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ARTISTS & CONTRIBUTORS

Herbie Bearclaw	
© 2009. Megaplex Toy Catalog	Front Cover
© 2009. Do Not Open Until Megaplex	Back Cover
© 2009. Partial Paper Doll	15
James "Southpaw Fox" Aikens	
© 2009. The Christmas Kit	26-33
© 2009. Kit in the Box	30
Jed "Rob Cat" Martinez	
© 2009. Absolutely Rudolph	21
© 2009. Snow Leopard	21
© 2009. Upside Down Christmas Tree	25
Stacy Stratton	
© 2009. Project Snowman.	25

GUEST OF HONOR

BigBlueFox

BigBlueFox (often just called BBF) is a German furry artist and fursuiter who often portrays himself as a blue fox of varying size. He's also a video, photography and music enthusiast.

People may have seen the countless hours of video he's has shot at conventions such as FC, AC and EF, and saw the rendered hours of editing to produce some awesome video con footage! Many of his video works can be found at

<http://video.bigbluefox-media.com/>

BBF is also known for his DJ talents, as he has DJ'd at conventions like MMC, AC and FC, and is most popularly known for his eurodance styles that have kept the dance floor at EF rocking all night till the sun rises.

He makes many popular dance mixes, which are found at <http://dj.bigbluefox.com/>

Did we also mention that he's an artist? And a Fursuiter? Such a variety of talent, it's amazing he can fit all that into a weekend at a convention!

We should expect one heck of a Dance this year at Megaplex when we turn the mic over to BBF, and turn up the volume!

And who knows? We might see blow-your-mind footage of MP2009!



MUSICAL GUEST

Matthew Ebel



Matthew Ebel, known in the fandom as Hali of Firpine, has been musical guest at several cons, Guest of Honor at FWA 2009, and has been named Guest of Honor at All Fur Fun 2010. He's backed up major label country stars at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. Furry fans have been gathering at his weekly video concerts on Tuesday nights, live from matthewebel.com.

Born in the Pacific Northwest, Matthew has spent all of his life singing and playing the piano. He then spent five years in Nashville which strongly influenced his arrangement and writing style. "I developed a taste for more organic sounding instrumentation," he says, "but the emphasis on storytelling through the lyrics is what left the most lasting impression." Ebel now lives in Boston, spending his offstage time writing new material.

His albums, *Filling The Pages* (2001), *The Wee Hours EP* (2003), *Beer and Coffee* (2005) and *Goodbye Planet Earth* (2007) saw Matthew evolve from a more traditional piano-based singer/songwriter in the realm of Billy Joel or Elton John into something more uniquely his own. Current fans have compared him to Ben Folds or Jonathan Coulton.

His latest project lives at www.matthewebel.net - a subscription site where Matthew's fans get new music and live recordings every month. In fact, Matthew's recording his concert this weekend and will be posting it to his fans in August! Megaplex attendees can get it for FREE with a coupon code good for 2 months of the All-Access Pass- just go to www.matthewebel.net/mpconbook

CHARITY

The C.A.R.E. Foundation is the beneficiary of the Megaplex Charity Auction. C.A.R.E. is a non-profit 501(c)3 that provides permanent sanctuary primarily for non-releasable wildlife. They currently house seven big cats, a black bear, and over seventy small animals. They provide a variety of educational programs, with focal points of conservation and animal safety, habitat sustainability, and wildlife identification and management.



C.A.R.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The CARE Foundation was established to provide non-domestic, non-releasable animals with a safe and permanent home and to educate the public on conservation and current environmental issues concerning endangered and threatened species, as well as local wildlife and their habitat.

AS A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, THE CARE FOUNDATION:

- Provides a safe and permanent home for non-domestic, non-releasable animals.
- Provides a hands-on learning environment for those interested in careers in animal care and handling.
- Provides a resource center aiding those already faced with issues concerning captive wildlife.
- Networks with other like-minded wildlife facilities to help place and care for exotic animals in need of a home.

AS AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, THE CARE FOUNDATION:

- Provides Educational Wildlife Programs for school children, civic groups, boy's and girl's clubs, time-share resorts, tour groups and family functions.
- Provides Educational Displays for Corporate Events, Conventions, Trade Shows and Community Events.
- Conducts Educational Lectures for Hunter's Education Courses to stress the importance of Ethical Hunting and Conservation.
- Actively participates in Research Projects involving Native Florida Wildlife.
- Provides specially trained animals for Film and Television Productions

Please visit www.thecarefoundation.org for more information.

HOTEL

The premier choice for overnight hotel reservations in Orlando Florida near the Walt Disney World® Resort is the Radisson WorldGate Orlando Resort Hotel...

Our relaxing Kissimmee Orlando hotel resort provides every guest with exceptional accommodations and plenty of perks, including an unmatched setting:

- Just one magical mile from the fun of Walt Disney World® Resort
- Within walking distance to scintillating shopping, nightlife, and dining
- Close to major local businesses and Orange County Convention Center
- Approximately 30 minutes from Orlando International Airport (MCO)

The Radisson Worldgate Resort Orlando is a Walt Disney World Good Neighbor® Hotel.

Welcome to the best of all worlds. We've taken luxurious guest rooms and beautifully landscaped grounds, and combined them with impeccable service in a wonderful central location. Our Orlando Florida hotel offers an oasis of relaxation within minutes of all the excitement of Central Florida. Let us shuttle you to your favorite Walt Disney World® Resort theme park, or arrange for tee times at a world-class golf course. We'll help you plan an out-of-this-world wedding - or assemble a memorable Orlando meeting in our spacious facilities. Be our guest and let us pamper you at this stunning Radisson hotel in Orlando, Florida. Discover our full host of personalized services, including:

- 566 beautifully decorated guest rooms and four suites
- Sleep Number Beds® ensure a restful night's sleep
- T-1 high-speed Internet access in all rooms and some public places
- Two palm-draped swimming pools and poolside whirlpool
- Lighted tennis and basketball courts on the premises
- Fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment and free weights
- 32,000+ square feet of high-tech meeting and special event space
- Full-service business center with secretarial services available
- Two delicious dining options, plus two lounges to serve you
- Family-friendly services and menus keep everyone happy
- Free scheduled shuttle service to all Walt Disney World® Resort theme parks
- Concierge on staff to tend to your every need
- Complimentary onsite parking for all guests

DEALER'S DEN

Megaplex is continuing its traditional Dealer Room in 2009 - and we're sold out at 14 dealers! Tables are reserved, first come, first serve - check with Registration for any vacancies.

HOURS

The Dealers Room will be open to convention members during the hours listed below, unless otherwise noted. These hours are tentative and subject to change. We will make every attempt to communicate changes to dealers.

Thursday	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Dealer Setup: Dealers ONLY
Friday	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Dealer Setup: Dealers ONLY
	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dealer's Den Open to All Attendees
	10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Den Closing: Dealers ONLY
Saturday	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Dealer Setup: Dealers ONLY
	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Dealer's Den Open to All Attendees
	10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Den Closing: Dealers ONLY
Sunday	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Dealer Setup: Dealers ONLY
	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Dealer's Den Open to All Attendees
	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Den Tear Down: Dealers ONLY

The Dealers Room will be secured when not open. Hotel and/or convention security will be patrolling the area at all times. At the discretion of the Dealers' Room director, a security person may sleep in the room.

TAXES

Per Florida Law, itinerant merchants are required to collect sales tax for sales of new or used goods. The collection and remittance of taxes to the State is the responsibility of the individual dealers.

DISPLAY GUIDELINES & BEHAVIOUR

In accordance with state law, we must require that no adult material be displayed openly; for art/print dealers we request, where applicable, that two separate binders ("general", "mature") be kept. Additionally, any "naughty" parts of must be covered in some fashion (Post-It notes work well for this). This satisfies State and Local requirements about underage viewing and is discreet for purchasers. Dealers are responsible for keeping unsuitable material out of the hands of minors. Minors will be clearly identifiable via their badges.

For more information, refer to the Conduct Policy on pages 17-19.

Alchera

<http://alcheraarts.blogspot.com/>

BushyCat

NEED TAILS? COMMISSIONS? WANT A COOL BADGE OR A UNIQUE PIECE OF ARTWORK? BushyCat has lots to offer, including adult artwork & custom-made paws and ears. Check out our new Items: Your character in wood! Come see the Zoo >^..^< REVIEW ART SAMPLES at <http://www.thevioletpanther.com>

Chilly Mouse

Illustrations and books by MLA Productions

This year at Megaplex Erika Rosengarten will be signing and doing personalized blue sketches in a limited number of copies her illustrated complication book, Random Oddities. There will also custom badges and sketches available.

If you're interested in having a fursuit made and need a quote, there will be albums of concept art and finished costumes to look at.

Gen Whitmore

<http://www.little-tales.com/>

H.

Matthew "Hali" Ebel

<http://www.matthewebel.com/>

**ATTENDING
DEALERS**

Kilcodo

Illustration and Costumes by Kilcodo!

I will be offering art commissions, and fancy laminated badges at my table. There will also be high-quality prints for sale and I am always open to queries for custom fursuits or elaborate illustration commissions. Come by and say hello!

Feel free to visit my FA Page! or my Costume Journal!

Likeshine

MegaWolf

Art Supplies, Print Services, Glowsticks, Blinky Toys, And Random Weirdness

Mike

PaintedDog

Roxikat

UndyingSong

Artwork by UndyingSong and DrakenByte! Please stop by and say hi! :D

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAIN EVENTS

Opening Ceremonies. Kick the Con Off Right with Opening Ceremonies.

Family Feud. It's the classic game show with a brand new twist! Join your host, Santa Fox, for some fun and laughs in this furry version of one of your favorite television programs.

Meet the Guest of Honor. Join our chairman, John "Kuddlepup" Cole, in an audience interactive conversation with the Megaplex Guest of Honor, the incomparable Big Blue Fox.

Fursuit Deal or Big Deal. Players compete in the wildly popular game of opening cases looking for the best payout possible.

Uncle Kage's Story Hour. Dr. Sam Conway, affectionately known as Uncle Kage, returns to entertain us with another of his world famous Story hours. Never to be confused with a "barber", our good doctor has traveled the globe collecting mishaps...er...stories to share with you.

Variety Show Rehearsal. If you have an act for the Variety Show or just want to be an extra in someone else's act, come to the rehearsal ... or else!

Super/Mega Sponsor Luncheon. The special luncheon just for super-sponsors and mega-sponsors. You must have your luncheon ticket in hand for admission to the meal.

C.A.R.E. Presentation. Our charity, C.A.R.E., returns this year to give an informative presentation on animals found and rescued in our area.

Auction Setup / Photo Op. A chance to get your picture with some of the C.A.R.E. Animals.

Charity Auction. Following the C.A.R.E. presentation, we will be holding a Charity Auction to raise money for C.A.R.E.

Bucktown Tiger. Bucktown Tiger performs on keyboard.

Matthew Ebel Concert. Come hear the music of professional piano-rock artist Matthew Ebel.

JR's Stand-up Comedy. Join the voice of Poink T Weasel for his own brand of comedy.

Rocky Horror Picture Show. Janet! Brad! Rocky! Dr.Scott! It's back! By popular demand, one of last year's most popular events will be returning to Megaplex. It's a live stage performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Be sure to brush up on your audience comments for this cult classic!

Furry Variety Show. So you want to be a performer? Here's your chance to show off your talents in the annual Megaplex Furry Variety Show.

Funday Pawpet Show. A live performance of one of the fandom's most enduring programs. Now in its tenth year of production, the Funday Pawpet Show will be performing LIVE and in the fuzz. This is one of the only venues where the full cast can make an appearance outside of the studio. If you've wanted to see the show live, then you won't want to miss this!

Feedback and Closing Ceremonies.

The con's almost over, but not quite yet. Stop by for our good-byes and a chance to let the staff know how they did and what you'd like to see happen with Megaplex next year!

WTF Theater. Don't blink! You may miss something in this fast paced, completely unscripted comedy program. Terry Sender and his cast of comics will be doing their best to perform to suggested topics from the audience. Disclaimer: We can't be held responsible if you can't stop laughing.

MUSIC, DJS AND DANCING

Dance – DJ Herbie

Dance - DJ Wildwolf

Dance - DJ BigBlueFox – Dance All Night

Karaoke

FURSUITING TRACK

Fursuit Games. The daytime Fursuit Games on Sunday will be milder and less physically challenging.

American Sign Language 101 for Fursuiters. Would you like to talk in suit without saying a word? This one hour American Sign Language intro class is designed with suiters in mind! You'll learn basic useful words and phrases, and gain a little insight into Deaf Culture. Don't be shy - this language was meant to be shared!

Fursuiter Pro Photo Shoot. Get pictures of your fursuit character done under professional studio conditions - no charge, and first come, first served.

Fursuit Performance Workshop. Whether you're just starting out or are a veteran fursuiter, the more you know

about how to perform in costume the better your fursuit character will be.

Fursuit Parade Line Up. Any fursuiter wanting to be in the fursuit parade should report to the Main Event Room during this time for line-up and instructions.

Fursuit Parade. It's the annual fursuit parade! Watch the suiters strut their stuff - a perfect photo opportunity for everyone. Group fursuiter photo will also occur during or immediately following the parade. Fursuiters: be sure to come to the main event room during the line up period immediately preceding the parade.

Fursuit Construction: Anatomy of a Mascot. Learn the secrets behind the construction of mascot costume characters as Wildwolf gives both basic and advanced lessons and tips

PUPPET TRACK

Walk-about Puppetry 101. All the basic ins and outs of doing walk-about entertainment with a puppet character

Open Call Pawpet Show. A special puppetry presentation.

ART TRACK

Badges 101: How To Make A Character Badge. Learn the art of making your own character badge. Supplies provided- all you need to bring is an open mind!

Cubs Vs. Adults: A Lesson in Proportions. If you think drawing adult anthros is hard, try drawing cubs! AnimeCat will teach you the basic differences between child and adult proportions. Bring your sketchbooks!

MORE FUN

Art Supplies Roundtable. Join AnimeCat and Carissa Fox for a general discussion of art supplies, their uses, and where to find them. Come share your knowledge or get some new tips. Discussions are encouraged!

Anatomy 201: The Next Steps.

Picking up where last year's lesson left off! Join AnimeCat and delve further into the depths of human, animal, and anthro anatomy.

Advanced Tips and Tricks

Roundtable. Have a question about that new technique you've been trying? Eager to try new things to give your artwork that extra pop? Then come ask your questions and discuss some new ideas!

The Official Megaplex Art Jam.

Bring your art supplies and come join you fellow artists for some good, old fashioned artistic fun! All art mediums accepted, just be prepared to clean up after yourself! Tables, chairs, and music will be provided. Sharing and sketch trades are encouraged.

WRITING TRACK

Building Worlds. Help design a new fiction setting! We'll talk about what makes a story-world interesting, believable and alive, while creating one ourselves.

Writers and Storyteller's Meet and Greet. Come down and meet some of the folks in the fandom who like to weave tales and either put them down on paper or share them in other forms.

MISCELLANEOUS

Entertaining in the Non-Furry World.

Calling all entertainers! If you entertain in any form or fashion in public venues, whether for hire or just as a volunteer, this meet-and-greet session is for you! Come join us for a casual discussion of the ins and outs of being a public entertainer. We'll share the fun times, horror stories, tips and trick of the trade, and just get to know each other a little better. Also, those who are interested in becoming public performers are welcome to attend to learn more and meet some of the folks in the fandom who've already learned the ropes.

Physically Challenged in the Furry Community. Join Rukario in a "round-table" type discussion as he discusses the impacts that the Furry Community has had on his life, and offers suggestions and encouragement to those who are new to the Community, and are Physically Challenged.

Costuming for the Physically Challenged. Costuming (also known as "fursuiting") is an activity that is gaining increasing popularity amongst all ages and walks of life. Join Rukario as he shares his personal accounts as to the manner fursuiting has impacted his life, and gives tips and suggestions to other physically challenged furs who either do currently fursuit, or are considering it.

Flute Workshop. Join Ghostwalker in a hands-on workshop on different flute types and styles.

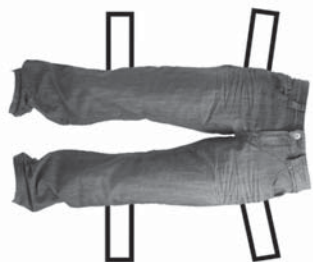
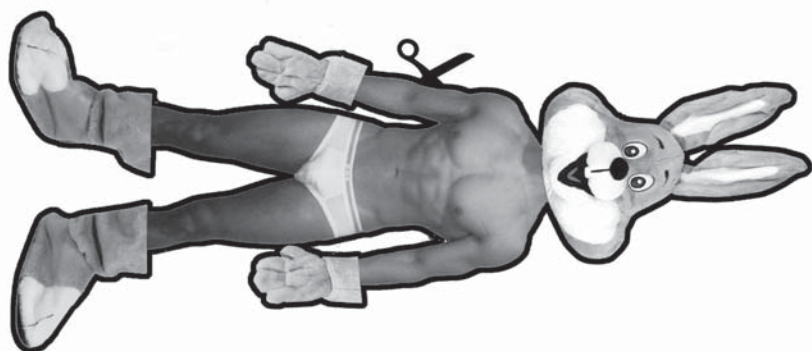


"DRESS ME"

PARTIAL FURSUIT PAPER DOLL TOY!



IT'S PARTIAL FUN!!!



FOR YOUR SAFETY

CONVENTION CONDUCT POLICY

The following policy is intended to help everyone have a safe, sane, and fun Convention. In general, Megaplex asks that you show respect and courtesy toward your fellow Convention members, the hotel, and its other guests. Consideration for the safety, rights and feelings of others will help to create a positive experience for everyone.

Members attending Megaplex agree to abide by this policy, while within Convention areas and while participating in Convention activities as a condition of membership. Security Staff will issue warnings if they observe any violations of this policy. Serious or repeat offenders will have their Megaplex membership revoked without refund, and will be asked to leave Convention areas immediately. In any dispute over the interpretation or enforcement of any policy, the decision of Megaplex Staff shall be final. We reserve the right to refuse membership to any person.

APPEARANCE & BEHAVIOR

Members are expected to wear their official Convention badges at all times while in Convention areas or participating in Convention activities, and to display their badges upon request by Security Staff. Anyone found in Convention space without a badge will be escorted to Registration or asked to leave.

Personal dress, including Mascots and other costumes, should be "PG-rated." Dry clothes (shirt, shorts and shoes at a minimum) will be required in Convention areas.

Public exposure of genitalia, buttocks or (female) breasts is not permitted.

"Anatomically correct" costumes must be likewise clothed. Discreet wearing of collars, leashes, etc. is acceptable, but sexually-oriented leather gear is not permitted in Convention areas. Security Staff may request a change of attire at their discretion.

Public displays of affection, regardless of sexual orientation, should also be kept to a "PG-rated" level within Convention areas. Holding hands, hugging, chaste kissing and similar activities are acceptable; anything more passionate is not. The Security Staff will ask you to stop or relocate if you get carried away.

To help ensure an safe and enjoyable time for our younger members, anyone under the age of 16 attending Megaplex must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Harassment of Convention members by their fellow members will not be tolerated. We would ask that all attendees be civil and polite, respect the rights and "personal space" of others, and attempt to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. If you feel you are being harassed, please report to Security immediately. Anyone who, in the judgment of the Staff, grievously harasses or stalks any fellow member, will have his or her Convention membership revoked immediately.

WEAPONS

All Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances apply to the possession, carry, and display of weapons at Megaplex. In general, Florida State law prohibits the open carry of firearms and the concealed carry of any weapon without a State-approved license.

For the safety and peace of mind of all attendees, all potentially deadly weapons, and realistic replicas that could be mistaken for deadly weapons, must be disabled, peace-bonded, or otherwise rendered inert while on display at the Convention.

If a weapon or replica is part of your costume, please consult Security for direction before taking it into Convention areas. Due to the potential for eye injury and general nuisance, laser pointers and similar devices are not permitted. Water guns, Nerf or other dart guns, Silly String, or other toy weapons capable of causing property damage are not permitted in Convention areas.

Water guns and Silly String in particular can cause a lot of harm to Mascot costumes. Please do not use toy weapons in locations where damage to merchandise, artwork, costumes, hotel property, etc. is likely.

Convention Members observed violating weapons policy will be asked to return their weapons to their rooms or vehicles, or to store them in a hotel safety deposit box. Refusal to dispose of a weapon upon request will result in immediate revocation of Convention membership.

Displaying or using any weapon in a threatening, reckless or dangerous manner will not be tolerated.

DEALERS' DEN

Security

The Dealers Room will be secured when not open. Hotel and/or convention security will be patrolling the area at all times. At the discretion of the Dealers' Room director, a security person may sleep in the room.

Taxes

Per Florida Law, itinerant merchants are required to collect sales tax for sales of new or used goods. The sales tax rate in Orange County is 7% (6% State, 1% County).

The collection and remittance of taxes to the State is the responsibility of the individual dealers. Information on filing the proper paperwork can be found at http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/taxes/flea_market_sut.html. Much of the required paperwork can be done online by following the appropriate links.

Space

Dealers Room space is extremely limited at Megaplex. We have tried to maximize the number of dealers that can attend, and, as a result, we must ask that all dealers keep the aisles clear and passages open. Stored and displayed items must not impede

traffic flow, both in front of and behind tables. We have a maximum limit of two people per full table behind each table.

Full tables are approximately 6' by 2'. Half-tables are 3' by 2'.

Megaplex will make every attempt to satisfy special requests, but we can't guarantee anything. If you have a special request, you are urged to contact us as soon as possible.

Display Guidelines & Behaviour

Please remember that not everyone may share your tastes, and that your behavior is representative of the entire fandom.

In accordance with state law, we must require that no adult material be displayed openly; for example, for art/print dealers we request, where applicable, that two separate binders ("general", "mature") be kept. Additionally, any "naughty" parts of must be covered in some fashion (Post-It notes work well for this). This satisfies State and Local requirements about underage viewing and is discreet for purchasers.

Dealers are responsible for keeping unsuitable material out of the hands of minors in the Dealers' Room. Minors will be clearly identifiable; more information on how to identify them will be available nearer to the convention.

In addition to the above rules, we have several other regulations that we ask dealers to abide by:

- No space may be shared or resold without permission from the Dealers' Room Director.
- No loud or annoying displays will be permitted. Any loud noises will be multiplied by the dynamics of the room, so please keep CDs/DVDs at a reasonable volume.
- No pirated works may be sold in the Dealers' Room. Piracy is theft, plain and simple. Exceptions can be made for material that is not readily available in the United States (hard-to-find anime, etc.), but this will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Anything that you sell that is not entirely your creation, you should have permission from all other parties before selling.
- Free standing displays or stands may not be used in any way that causes a safety issue or clogs the walkway. If you plan on using a stand or display with your table, please inform the Dealers' Room staff so it can be positioned in a way not to cause problems.
- No weapons may be sold in the Dealers' Room. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis, but will need to be cleared through security.
- No more than two people may be behind a single table at any given time.

**...AND
MORE
RULES**

- The Dealers' Room Director will have final say on all disputes in the Room. You can appeal to the Chairman, but he's likely to decide in favor of the Director.
- All Megaplex Policies apply in the Dealers' Room!

Special Requests

These requests will be handled on a first-come, first served basis and there are an EXTREMELY limited amount of special requests that can be accommodated. If you have special physical needs, such as handicapped access, space for a large display, or proximity to another dealer, please let us know as soon as possible. We will try to honor as many special requests as we can, however, being denied a special request is not grounds for a table refund. The earlier you tell us, the more likely we are to be able to fulfill a request.

Waiting List

Dealers' Room space goes fast. In the event that the Dealers Room sells out, we will be instituting the waiting list. When the Dealers Room is full, applications will be placed in the waiting list in a first-come, first-served manner. Payment will not be due until a table is granted to you, however, be prepared to pay as soon as you are granted a table as there will be a deadline for payment to be received or the next person in line will be given the table.

Canceling

If you find you are unable to attend, refunds will be handled on a case-by-case basis, up until one week before the convention, after which table fees are non-refundable. Canceled tables cannot be transferred to other dealers at the request of the canceling dealer, but will go to the next person on the waiting list.

Final Notes

Complaints or concerns concerning the Dealers Room should be addressed to mp-dealers@ppmp.info. Tables that have not been claimed by 10:00AM on the Friday of the convention without prior notification to the staff will be considered abandoned and given to the next waiting applicant on the list. No refunds or credits will be given for abandoned tables.

PHOTOGRAPHIC, AUDIO, AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

All Members in attendance at Megaplex should be aware that they may be photographed or recorded at any time while in public areas. Megaplex reserves the right to allow authorized individuals to make photographic, audio or video record of any public event held in Convention areas, and to distribute these productions, in whole or part, free of charge, for historical or promotional purposes. Members agree that they are not entitled to any notice or compensation for the appearance of their names, nicknames or likenesses in such productions.

Photographic, audio and video recording at Megaplex is restricted. Members who

wish to take pictures or make recordings for personal, non-commercial use while at the Convention may do so, however they must not take any video or photos of areas marked as non-recordable. Anyone taking pictures in those areas may have their con membership revoked. We would ask that photographers and videographers act with common sense and courtesy, and refrain from recording any unwilling individual.

Anyone may post pictures of the convention on personal, not for profit websites, However, if someone is in a picture by themselves or with one other person, in the focus of the picture, and they wish to have their photo removed, you must respect that person's request and remove the image. If the person is in a group of three or more in the photo, then it is considered a group photo, and would require objection from at least a 50% majority of the people in the photo.

Photographic, audio and video recordings of the Funday PawPet Show (FPS) are the sole property of The Funday PawPet Show, and performances will be aired on the internet show at some later date. Super Sponsors and other Members who appear on FPS in guest interviews, performances, or live audience participation while attending Megaplex agree that they are not entitled to any notice or compensation for the appearance of their names, nicknames or likenesses in FPS recordings or broadcasts, unless other prior written agreement has been made.

Megaplex will not use the names or likenesses of corporately owned and trademarked mascots, puppets or other characters for any commercial or promotional purposes, except according to prior written agreement.

AND YET MORE RULES

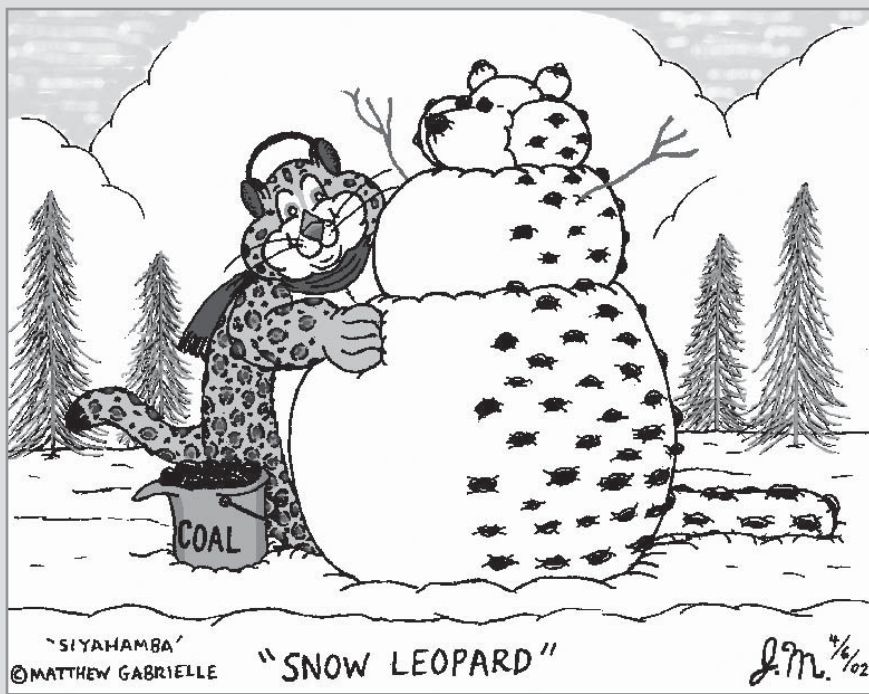
PRESS AND MEDIA POLICY

Megaplex is a private social function for Members only, and as such, is closed to all press and media members and organizations. Making photographic, audio or video recordings of any Convention event for investigative or commercial purposes is strictly forbidden.

Press and media members desiring a statement, press release or interview from Convention Staff should contact the Convention Director or Convention Promotions Chair. Each request will be considered individually and on a case-by-case basis.

PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS

Due to the nature of the convention, including mascots and C.A.R.E Foundation animals, we will not allow any personal pets. Working service animals are permitted as per ADA regulations.



The Baron's Christmas Present

(c)2009 Santa Fox

Ancient wisdom claims that time heals all wounds, but Baron von Redtail did not believe in old adages. Nine months had passed since he tried to take over Megaopolis and he still fumed with anger every time he thought about his humiliating defeat. He could remember all too well the bitter pain of MegaPanther throwing him to the cold, hard, pavement that final day of the festival. Time may heal some wounds, but some are just too deep to heal on their own.

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, Redtail was feeling even more miserable than ever, and the last thing he wanted was to go outside and see anyone being jolly or merry. Flipping through the channels on his television set, he finally settled on watching one of his old favorites: the classic animated special, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Nothing could bring a big, evil grin to his beak like watching the Grinch snatch away every single decoration and gift from the little town of Whoville.

Cutting the television off just before the happy ending, Redtail got up and walked over to the entryway of his mountain top lair. Accessible only by flight, the entrance was merely a small strip of rocky ground with a steep drop-off, but it provided Redtail with a perfect view of Megaopolis, not unlike the view that the Grinch had of Whoville. Peering down with his razor-sharp eyes, he looked over the beautifully decorated town and let out a giant sigh of disgust.

"Bah, humbug!" he muttered, quoting his other favorite Christmas character.

Turning away, Redtail mused about stealing Christmas from Megaopolis and another great big grin fell across his beak. The idea fascinated him, even though he knew it was well beyond his reach. Only a cartoon character could actually steal Christmas from an entire town, especially a town guarded by the likes of MegaPanther.

Redtail moped all the way back to his roost and tried to settle in for the night, but he could not sleep, for visions of sweet revenge kept filling his head. Slowly but surely, those visions developed into a plan - a most deviously evil plan. He might not be able to steal Christmas from Megaopolis, but he could certainly ruin it.

With no chance of sleeping now, Redtail hurried to his workshop to set his plan in motion. Grabbing some spare parts, he began building a most ingenious device. He dubbed his creation "the giftinator", for when activated it would target and destroy anything nearby covered in wrapping paper. Being an evil genius, it was easy for him to build such a complicated device, and within an hour it was finished.

"It's so perfect!" Redtail uttered as he set the timer on the giftinator. "All those fools in Megaopolis put their Christmas gifts under that huge, gaudy tree in the town square. I'll just wrap this baby up, pay someone to slip it into the pile, and then on Christmas Eve at midnight all of their gifts will go 'poof!'" He cackled with delight - louder and stronger and longer than he had done in ages.

Lacking any holiday gift-wrap, Redtail put the giftinator in a plain brown box and tied it up with some old yarn. Just for fun, he put a tag on the box and wrote "To: MegaPanther, From: A Secret Admirer". The next day he paid off one of his former henchmen to pass the gift on to an unsuspecting third party who delivered it to Megaopolis and placed it under the community tree. Now, all he had to do was sit back and wait.

A couple days later, Redtail found himself looking at his calendar. He had to laugh, for he never thought he would ever bother to count the days until Christmas, yet here he was doing exactly that. There were just three days left, and this year he could hardly wait for Christmas day to arrive.

After two agonizingly slow and boring days, the evening of Christmas Eve finally arrived. Redtail paced back and forth in his lair, wondering what it would feel like to look down at Megaopolis the next morning and see nothing but sorrow. He reveled in the thought until he heard a loud thump followed by the slight sound of sleigh bells coming from the entry to his lair. Rushing out to the ledge, he found a large box that was wrapped in colorful holiday paper with shiny red ribbon around it and a huge red bow on top.

All Redtail could do was to stare at the box in disbelief. He looked up to the sky for some sign of whomever had left the gift, but there was nothing to be seen. Shaking his head, he looked down again to make sure he was not hallucinating, but the box was still there, and this time he noticed a small tag hanging off of the ribbon at the base of the bow. Turning the tag over, his gaze froze on the smooth round lettering that was on the back: "To: Robbie Redtail, From: Santa Claus".

"What! What! What!" Redtail said aloud. "No! It's impossible! There is no such thing as Santa Claus!" He paused for a moment, scratching his brow. "But, how could anyone know my given name?" It was quite puzzling indeed, for his parents had passed away, he had no siblings or friends, and he had never used his given name around his henchmen or business contacts.

Wanting to get out of the cold night air, Redtail carried the box back into his den and set it in the middle of the room. There, he stared at it some more, the cogs in his mind turning at top speed. He was tempted to wait until morning to open the gift, but it was not long before curiosity finally got the better of him and he ripped the box open.

Redtail's jaw dropped when he saw what was inside the box: a bright blue scooter, and not just any scooter either. It was the very same model scooter that Redtail had wanted for Christmas when he was just a little hatchling, only his parents would not get it for him.

"How? How? How?" he muttered. "How could anyone have known about this?"

Drawn to the magical feeling of now having the scooter that he had longed for as a hatchling, he stepped onto it and began pushing himself around the room, and it was not long before he started doing something very foreign to his nature: he was laughing and smiling. He pushed himself out of the den and scooted around the entire lair,

feeling almost giddy with joy and excitement. Strange feelings for him, indeed, but somehow he did not mind them.

After a little while, he stopped and began to think again about the mysterious nature of the gift. "How could this be," he thought. "Someone did something ... nice ... for me? No one has ever done anything nice for me in my entire life." As he thought about this, he could not help but reflect on how the lack of anyone caring about him had surely been instrumental in turning him to the ways of evil.

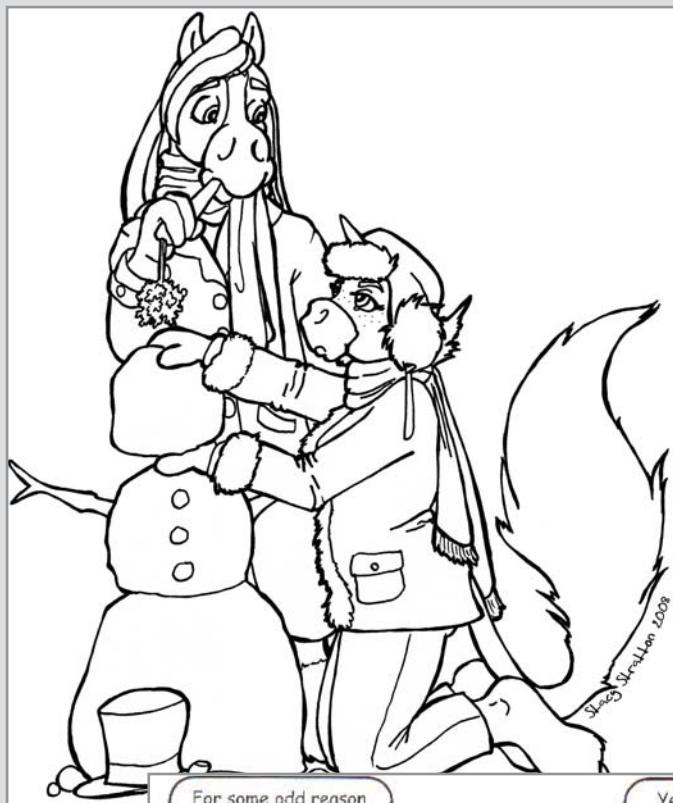
"Maybe, just maybe, Christmas really isn't such a bad time of year," Redtail said aloud, and at that moment his icy cold heart felt a little bit warm. Wanting to shake the feeling, he went outside to the ledge and looked down at the town. Within moments he heard the faint tolling of a church bell, and the sound caused him to instinctively glance over at the clock on his wall. It was eleven forty-five, just fifteen minutes until Christmas morning.

"Christmas morning." The words resonated in his head as he suddenly remembered the giftinator. He turned and looked at the scooter, and then looked back down at the town square. With his razor-sharp vision he could just make out the plain brown box sitting under the tree, surrounded by the many other packages that were all so colorfully wrapped. He thought about all the youngsters who were eagerly waiting to run out to the tree the next morning to open their gifts and watch their friends and families do the same. These thoughts made Redtail's heart warm up even more, and then he felt something that he had never felt before in his life: remorse.

Without another thought, Redtail spread his wings wide and launched himself into the air, soaring down from his lair and swooping gently over the town. He would normally never go flying at night, as it was too hard for him to navigate, but the brightly lit tree acted as a beacon, almost like a star in the sky. Without even circling once, Redtail dove straight down and plucked the brown box from under the tree.

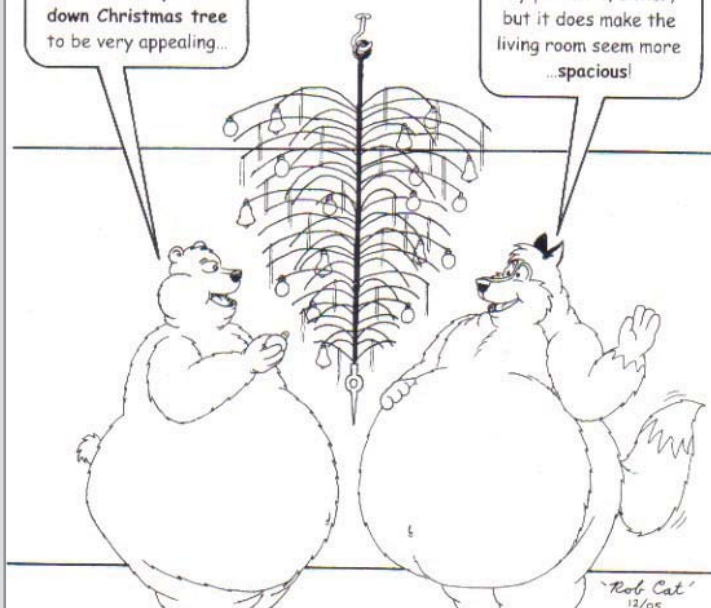
Sure enough, a town sentry noticed Redtail's descent, but the old bird was up and away again before the sentry could do anything about him. The sentry watched helplessly as Redtail returned to the mountains, disappearing from sight in the darkness. Just as the sentry started to turn back towards the town square, he heard a soft pop and then saw an intense brightness flood out over the peaks of the mountains, briefly illuminating the night sky like a strike of lightning.

Eight hours later, the sentry went off duty and passed the watch on to the day shift. As he climbed down from his tower, he looked over and watched as many of the inhabitants of Megaopolis began arriving at the town square to celebrate Christmas day. They would soon be exchanging presents and singing carols and sharing in a big Christmas dinner at the town festival hall. Before heading over to the square to join his own family, the sentry looked back to the mountains once more and said, "Merry Christmas, Redtail, wherever you are."



For some odd reason,
I find this upside-
down Christmas tree
to be very appealing...

Yeah, I can't place
my paw on it, either,
but it does make the
living room seem more
...spacious!



The Christmas Kit

By James “SouthPaw Fox” Aikens

Chapter 1: The Christmas Present

She was an attractive young vixen. She had completed her education and now she was ready to find her mate and start a family. She didn't want just any todd. She wanted the one that was for her. She had met several todods that she liked and were friends with, but none of them was the one.

After a long time of searching, she finally found the todd that was for her. When she met him, she knew beyond a doubt that he was the right one. The todd felt the same way towards her as well. He too had been looking for the right one. It didn't take long for the two to grow close to each other.

Wherever one of the foxes was, the other one was there. The two were seen walking paw-in-paw almost everywhere that they went. When they parted ways at the end of the day, they counted the hours until they would see each other again.

After several months together, the two decided that they wanted to get married. They spent a lot of time discussing the idea with each other and with their families. Their families knew how much the todd and vixen loved each other. Everyone involved agreed with the idea of them getting married. The two pledged their love to each other and a date was set for the wedding. Word quickly spread about the upcoming event. Everyone was talking about the wedding with great excitement.

The day of the wedding finally arrived. The church was packed from wall to wall with some even standing in the back. Everyone who knew these two was excited for them and didn't want to miss the wedding.

Words could not describe how the todd felt when he saw his bride-to-be in her dress. His vixen bride-to-be had never looked more beautiful. This was the happiest that he had ever been in his life. When the minister announced them as husband and wife, everyone in the room stood and applauded. The todd and vixen were almost walking on air as they walked down the aisle and out of the church.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and kindness of their friends, the couple was able to have a wonderful honeymoon. They were able to go to a beautiful location where they could enjoy their time together. When they were out on their honeymoon, the couple was seen walking paw-in-paw and giving each other little kisses on each other's muzzle. The couple had such a good time together that they didn't want to leave their paradise and return back to a normal life.

When the couple finally returned home, the todd carried his vixen bride into their home. After a long time searching, the two had found each other and were starting their new lives together. When the couple saw their friends and co-workers, they were greeted with “congratulations”, hugs and pawshakes.

After a short period of time, life began to settle down and the couple got into a routine.

While they were at their jobs, both of them looked forward to getting back home so they could be with each other. When they got home, they took turns doing chores and things around the house. They had quickly made their house a home.

After they had been married for a few months, they began to talk about starting a family. Before they got married, they had already talked about having family of their own but they wanted to get settled in first. Now that life had gotten back to a normal pace, they felt that the time was right to start a family.

The young couple made several attempts to start a family. Every time it failed. One time she thought she was pregnant, but she wasn't. The couple would get their hopes up time after time, but their hopes would come crashing back down.

After several failures, the couple took some time off from trying to have a family. They wanted to have a family of their own so badly that they couldn't stand it. When they would go out and see other couples with little ones it made them sad. After a while, the couple limited the amount of time that they spent out and about. They were concerned that they might see other couples with kits and become discouraged.

They reached out to their friends and family for comfort, who in turn gave them mixed responses. Sometimes the couple would hear words of encouragement to keep trying. Other times they would be told that there was no point in trying because it wasn't meant for them to have any kits of their own. What made things worse was that those that they talked to were not consistent. They didn't know what they were going to hear when they talked to their friends and family.

The mixed reactions caused the todd and vixen to spend much time in thought about what they should do. They wanted a family but they couldn't take much more discouragement. They had to make a decision. Would they try again to have a family or accept the fact that they wouldn't have their family?

After much time in thought and prayer, the couple tried one more time. The couple had a good feeling after this try. After waiting a little while, the vixen went to the doctor to see if she was pregnant. Much to her delight, she was told that she would soon give birth to a vixen kit.

The couple was so happy with the news! They couldn't wait to tell everyone. When everyone heard the news, they were excited and happy for the couple. The timing of the birth couldn't be any better. The kit was expected at Christmas.

As the days drew near for both Christmas and the new arrival, the couple's excitement grew. They soon had their house decorated both for Christmas and for the new kit. Everything had to be in place. There was no time to waste!

It was late on Christmas Eve when the vixen felt that it was time. The couple rushed to the hospital where the doctor was waiting. The vixen prepared herself the best that she could for the new arrival. She was ready, but she couldn't understand why the kit wouldn't come.

After what seemed like forever, the little vixen kit was born. When the mother looked

up, she saw the clock on the wall and understood. It was a few minutes after midnight. The doctor took the vixen kit and wrapped her in a blanket and handed her to her mother.

"Congratulations," the doctor said. "She's a healthy vixen kit. And 'Merry Christmas'."

The todd and vixen were so happy! Now they had their family. There was the todd, vixen and their "Christmas Kit".

Chapter 2: Christmas Morning

One Christmas morning, a vixen kit looked at the Christmas tree. She noticed an ornament that looked different. She got up and took a closer look at it.

"Mommy, why is this ornament different?" the kit asked her mother.

Her mother looked up.

"Which one are you talking about?" her mother asked.

"This one," the kit said while pointing to the ornament.

"Oh, that one. Come here and I'll tell you about it."

The kit walked over and sat next to her mother.

"That ornament was made by my great-grandmother. Back then they didn't have much money so they made most of what they had. My great-great-grandmother taught my great-grandmother how to sew and mend things. When my great-grandmother made this ornament, she was so proud of it.

"When she finished the ornament, she was so proud to put it on the tree. Whenever someone would come over, she would make sure to show off her work. Sometimes her mother would fuss at her for showing off too much, but that didn't stop her."

"How did you get it?" the kit asked.

"Well, when my great-grandmother got married and had kits, she handed the ornament down to her oldest daughter. When her daughter went out on her own, she took the ornament with her. When she got married and had kits, she passed the ornament down to her oldest daughter. This continued on until it came to me."

"Will it come to me?"

"Yes, one day when you grow up, I'll give it to you. Then if you get married, you can give it to your oldest daughter."

"What's so special about that ornament?"

"If you will carefully take the ornament off the tree and bring it here, I'll show you something."

The kit walked over and carefully took the ornament off the tree. She then took the ornament to her mother and put it in her mother's paws. The kit then sat back down next to her mother.

Her mother took the ornament and turned it over.

"You see these spots on the back?" her mother said.

The kit nodded.

"Those places are where my great-grandmother stuck her paw with a needle. Those spots are where she bled a little when she was sewing the ornament. I'm sure she probably tried to get the places out, but they stayed on the fabric. I don't know if her mother tried to clean them off or not. Either way, those spots are a part of my great-grandmother that still lives on."

"Did you get to see your great-grandmother?"

"Not really. She died when I was very young. I might have a picture of her here somewhere."

"Do you miss her?"

"Since she died when I was young, I really didn't get to know her. I do know something special about her."

"What's that?"

"She was born on Christmas day. They called her a 'Christmas kit'.

"However, I do remember my grandmother. This little ornament reminds me of when we would go to her house for Christmas. Even though we had our own tree, we would take this little ornament and put it on my grandmother's tree."

"Why did you stop going to her house at Christmas?"

"She died long before you were born. We stayed at home for Christmas after she died. When we decorated the tree, we would always put this ornament on the tree. After we decorated the tree, we would see the handmade ornament and it would remind us of where it came from and who made it. We would sit down, look at the tree and re-tell stories from past Christmases."

"Why do we keep it on our tree? Why don't we put it on your parent's tree when we go over there?"

"When I got married and moved out on my own, my mother gave me the ornament. Before you were born, your dad and I would go to my parent's house for Christmas. When we went, we took the ornament with us. Since you were born, we've stayed here for Christmas. When you get a little older, we'll probably start going back to my parents' for Christmas. While you're still a little kit, we want you to enjoy your Christmas at home."

"Are they coming to see us?"

"Yes, they'll be here after while. They want to give us time to celebrate and enjoy Christmas together."

The kit looked up at her mother.

"Could you do something?"

"What's that honey?"

"Would you tell me one of the stories that you told while decorating the tree?"

"Of course. What kind of story would you like to hear?"

"How about something from when you were my age?"

"Okay. Make yourself comfortable."

The little kit snuggled up close to her mother. Her mother began to tell her little kit about a Christmas morning when she was little.

She told her daughter about how she looked forward to Christmas. Once the tree was put up, boxes started showing up wrapped in brightly colored paper. She got caught trying to figure out what was in the boxes. Her parents fussed at her for doing that more than once. She talked about how excited she was when she opened her presents. She remembered her grandparents coming over.

She then talked about having dinner and then more presents for her. She then remembered something else. She remembered everyone gathering around the tree. They took a family picture each year. They always made it a point to get a picture of someone holding the ornament.

Her mother then began to think of those in her family who had passed away through the years. Remembering them caused her to start to cry. The kit looked up and saw her mother's tears.

"Are you okay?" the kit asked. "Why are you crying?"

"I was thinking about the ones in my family who have died. Some of them I really miss."

"Aren't they up in heaven now?"

"Yes they are."

"Aren't they happy and healthy?"

"Yes."

"We'll get to see them one day, won't we?"

"Yes."

"Then I can get to meet them."

"Yes you will."

The kit's mother began to think about what had just taken place. Even though her kit was young, she understood things so well.

"Mommy?"

"Yes, honey?"

A Kit and His "Fox In The Box"



"I love you Mommy."

"I love you too."

"Merry Christmas Mommy."

"Merry Christmas, to you too."

The little kit yawned real big. She snuggled in against her mother's side and went to sleep. The kit's mother reached down and hugged her little kit.

"Merry Christmas, my little one. I love you," she whispered to her kit.

Chapter 3: Memories

"Where is it?" the vixen yelled out. "Has anyone seen it?"

"What are you looking for?" the vixen's kit asked.

"Where is that ornament?"

"Which one?"

"The one that my great-great-grandmother made. What happened to it? I know I put it with the other ornaments."

"What's so special about that ornament?"

"Just wait until I find it and I'll explain. I can't believe that you don't remember!"

The vixen kept searching through box after box. After about an hour or so, she finally found the handmade ornament. She took it out of the box with a big grin on her face. She then went to find her kit. Her kit had moved onto something else. She put her hand on the scruff of her daughter's neck.

"Come here," she told her daughter. "I'm going to explain this one more time."

Her daughter wasn't happy about being pulled away from what she was doing, but she got up anyway. If nothing else, it would make her mother happy. The kit's mother sat down in the floor and told her daughter to do the same.

"Now, I want you to listen to me. This ornament was handmade by my great-great-grandmother. If you look at the back of this ornament, do you see these spots? Those spots are spots of blood that fell when she stuck her paw with the needle. This has been handed down from mother to oldest daughter.

"I remember my mother telling me about the ornament. She told me how proud her great-great-grandmother was of her handmade ornament. She was showing it to everyone. When she grew up and went out on her own, she took the ornament with her. When she had a daughter, she gave the ornament to her daughter when she grew up. Since then, the ornament has been passed from mother to oldest daughter.

"I also remember my mother telling me about Christmas when she was growing up. She told me about seeing the wrapped boxes for her. She got fussed at for trying to figure out what was in the boxes. She was excited to see what she was given for Christmas. After the presents were opened, her grandparents would come over. After

lunch, she got more presents to open. Family pictures were taken and they always made sure they had a picture of someone holding the ornament."

When the vixen had finished talking, she looked over at her daughter. She couldn't tell if her daughter had listened to what she had said or if her daughter had tuned her out.

"Did you hear what I said?" the vixen asked.

"Huh? Uh, sure."

"Then what did I say?"

"Uhhh."

"That's what I thought. You don't think this is important to you, do you? Sit right there. Don't move. I'll be right back."

The vixen got up and went into another room. She returned a few minutes later with a photo album. She sat back down in the floor next to her daughter.

"I want you to look at these pictures. These are pictures of our relatives. Do you see the similarities? We do look alike don't we?"

As the vixen turned the pages, she told her daughter about those who were pictured on each page. She told stories about family members. Every once in a while, the vixen's daughter would show some interest in one of the family members. When she finished going through the pictures, the vixen looked directly into her daughter's eyes.

"Do you know what they all have in common?" the vixen asked her daughter.

"What's that?"

"Except for us and your grandparents, they are all dead and gone. This ornament is the only thing we have left from them. Like I said earlier, those spots are drops of blood. That's how my great-great-grandmother continues to live on. This little ornament had been passed down for generations.

"To the best of my knowledge, you're the first vixen who hasn't been excited about getting it. Once they were old enough to understand what it meant, all of the other vixens considered it an honor to receive this."

The vixen then stood up. She walked over and hung the ornament at the very top of the tree (out of her daughter's reach).

"I can't make you take this. Maybe by the time you've grown up, your feelings will change. Until that time comes, you are not to touch the ornament."

The vixen sniffled a little and walked out of the room leaving her daughter alone sitting in the floor. As she walked through the doorway, she took a quick look over her shoulder at her daughter. The vixen sighed and went on to do something else.

The vixen's daughter sat in the floor by herself. She was trying to understand what the big deal was about this ornament. Why was her mother so wound up about it? Then she looked and saw the photo album. Her mother had not said that she couldn't look at it.

She began to flip through the pages. At first she didn't really see anything outstanding with the pictures. They were just pictures of foxes that were dead and gone. She just flipped through the pages until something caught her attention. She saw some pictures that looked like they could be her baby pictures, but the background was wrong. After looking at several of these pictures, she noticed something. In most of the pictures there weren't a lot of toys with the kit, just the ornament. In the later pictures there were some toys but the ornament was still the most prominent thing. She couldn't understand why this was. So, she got up to find her mother.

The kit found her mother sitting down in a chair in another room. Her mother was still upset from earlier.

"Mom?" the kit asked.

"What?"

"When I looked at some of those pictures I didn't see many toys, just the ornament. Why?"

The kit's mother looked up.

"Our family has never had a lot of money. We had what we needed. We couldn't afford to buy a lot of extra things like toys. If we did get something special, it was usually handmade. That ornament was handmade and my great-great-grandmother was very proud of what she made. It was something that couldn't be bought; it was one of a kind. Ever since then, it has been handed down with a sense of pride. She made it by herself and it may have inspired others to try to make things on their own."

The kit stood there and thought for a few minutes.

"So, the ornament is so special because it was handmade instead of being bought?"

"That's right. It became a central part of our family's Christmas."

"I'm sorry I didn't pay attention earlier. I didn't understand what it really meant to you. May I look at it?"

"Well, I guess so."

The vixen and her kit went back into the other room. The vixen reached up and took the ornament off the tree. She handed it to her kit. The kit looked at the ornament's details. She saw the spots of blood on the back. She noticed how the ornament was in such good condition for how long it had been around.

The kit handed the ornament back to her mother. The vixen then put the ornament back on the tree, but at a lower level.

"If you want to look at it again, be careful," the vixen told her kit. "This has been around for a long time."

"I will."

On Christmas morning, the annual family picture was taken. The vixen's kit had her picture taken while proudly holding the handmade ornament.

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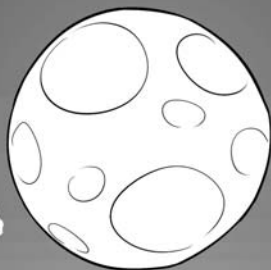
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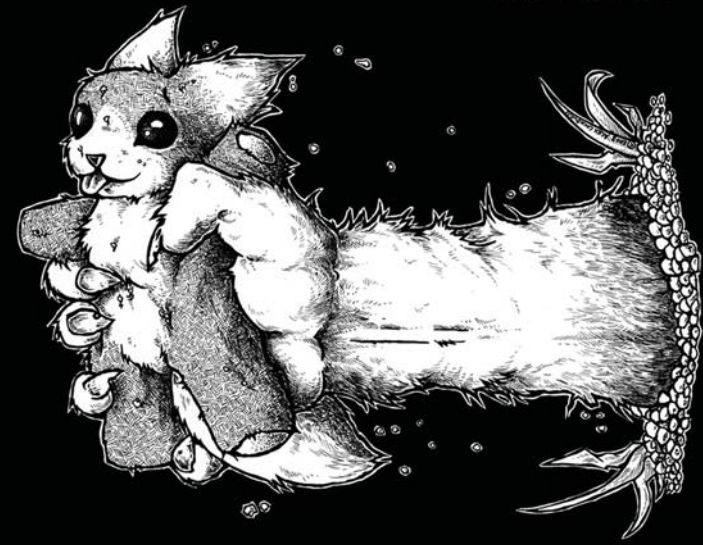


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