



Emperor Cheetah waves to his people as he is hauled in by four equine fursuiters. Later, he and his "slave" Pinky declare Eurofurence open. photos: ang

"Nunc est ridendum et bibendum!" (It's Time to Party!)

The well-attended opening ceremony began with a dramatic, even martial spoken word introduction accompanied by light effects. Great Emperor Cheetah entered in a chariot drawn by most noble steeds, equine fursuiters. Hosted by Pinky, the proceedings were characterized by each of the team leaders speaking on matters within their areas of responsibility.

Two gladius-equipped footsoldiers were present to keep order and to especially ensure that the speakers wouldn't consider excessively long orations. The Emperor himself spoke shortly, being content to extend his thanks. Seated next, the guest of honour humorously described

challenges of attending a convention.

Among the highlights of the other talks were the new charity events, the promise of more action-packed fursuit gameshow rounds and thanks to all who have submitted art for the conbook. Practical matters brought to attention included improved usability of stairs to relieve some of the load on elevators.

Speaking for the fursuit department, Mystifur let us know that the fursuit group photo will take place immediately before the fursuit-friendly dance, unlike previous years. The informative ceremony was concluded appropriately with a declaration in latin given by Pinky and the Emperor himself. (*hhp*)

Registration Statistics

The yearly growth continued with a count of 1278 attendees, 1118 males and 160 females. Popularity of early arrival and late departure is evident with 732 and 657 respectively booking each option to extend their stay. Special interests are presented for example by 256 artists and 563 fursuiters, amounting to 44 percent fursuiters. Top five countries in terms of attendance are Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France and Austria, of which Germany accounts for almost half of the total. (*hhp*)

Animals in Rome



Actaeon being mauled by Diana's hounds. photo: pd

When you ask furies what inspired them to imagine anthropomorphic animal characters, only a few will mention the myths of old. And yet, their powerful images continue to inspire.

Animal-human hybrids that come to mind are the minotaur, satyr or centaur. They originated in Greek myth, but were eagerly adopted by the Romans, who had taken up Greek culture as an ideal. One of the most significant texts, especially to furies, are the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid. As the name suggest they deal mostly with transformation stories. Tales where the gods, out of jealousy, rage or pity, change human beings and lesser gods into animals,

monsters or inanimate objects. Take Lycaon: he offended Jupiter and was transformed, along with his sons, into a pack of voracious wolves, creating the first werewolf story.

Another famous tale is that of Actaeon, a hunter who spied on the goddess Diana while she took a bath. His punishment was to be turned into a stag and hunted down by the virgin goddess.

Ovid created 15 books with 250 different tales, written in dactylic hexameter, the form of the great heroic epic poems of antiquity. They remain a centre piece of western literature, even after the fall of Rome and continued to inspire great artists like Shakespeare. (*cur*)

The First-Timer's Guide to Eurofurence

Tipps has been here before, watching all the new fresh faced Furs experiencing Eurofurence for the first time. It's easy for them to get caught up in the amazing world of a Furry convention, so he's on call to make sure everything goes according to plan.

He's not going to have to wait long, there's an eager beaver looking at the event list and highlighting almost every single thing on it! He won't be able to enjoy himself if he's running around trying to cram in everything in one go. Tipps shows him a better way:

Take time to look through what's on, and choose the things you really want to go to. After all, you'll enjoy them a lot more when you're bright-eyed and bushy-tailed rather than burnt-out and breathless from scurrying around all day!

Well, that's one newbie safely on his way, but there's more! Seems Tipps is in high demand today, as he can see a young Raccoon snapping up things in the Dealer's Den with gay abandon. Luckily, he's on hand to give him some good advice:

Remember, everything you buy has to go back with you, so unless you've got a steamer trunk

stashed away somewhere, you'll struggle to carry all that wonderful stuff back home, especially if you're flying or going by rail. Be sure you've got enough room for all your souvenirs.

What's this over here? An Ox appears to be asleep. Seems a bit early for that. Ah, that's why. It seems this Bull Dozer has forgotten to follow the immortal Uncle Kage's golden rule. Tipps knows it by heart:

As well as the fun you can have, you still have to keep your strength up, and be sure you're fully rested. That's why you should follow the 6-2-1 rule every day. 6 hours of sleep, 2 meals, 1 shower (all that excitement can really work up a sweat!) (*hed*)



Keep the capacity of your car or train in mind when buying things!
- an illustration by Pegla

Sewing and Self-Defense

Sinea wants girls in the fandom to be more than just a minority. Curry asks her what the Girls' Cafe is all about, and what it could possibly become.

Curry: Why a Girls' Cafe?

Sinea: Because girls are still a minority even if the fandom is increasing in size. The approximate number of females is around 20% and especially during a large scale event one tends to become shy and apprehensive about where to get help and information if you're in a harrowing situation.

C: Harrowing in the sense of being overwhelmed?

S: Not only that, I also mean in terms of sexual harassment. That is actually one of the main topics of my SIG. To be more precise, how do I defend myself against such an incident, and how to best cope and find out who to talk to. I even partake in some small lessons in self defense, myself. I consider it important for a woman to be able to defend herself.

C: Has such an incident occurred before?

S: I have been told that last year a female fursuiter was assaulted. The perpetrator could not be apprehended, and considering the size of this event, it is quite possible for this to occur and we want to be prepared in case of any emergency. In the past it was strictly girls only but this year we consider including transgendered people as well. Currently it's only a trial, and I also have the support of the security team so I don't see any trouble arising.

C: In essence you share experience then?

S: Yes, but not only about this topic, we also chat or draw, do some sewing and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere. That's why I called it Girls' Cafe, so the girls can just sit down, enjoying each others company. The things we talk about are quite diverse, ranging from sharing experiences about previous partners and conflicts in ones relationship, to about being a furry and female, or generally about being a woman.

C: How do the girls like it, is it well frequented?

S: I started the SIG as a pilot project last year. Something similar had been suggested for quite a while but didn't manifest so I took it upon myself to make it happen. Last year we had about 24 girls attending but I expect a bigger group this year thanks to word of mouth advertising.

C: So you see yourself in an advisory role?

S: Yes, that is how I'd like to be seen. I don't want to do active security anymore because of health reasons but I will remain as an advisor to both sexes, but women being my main priority concern.

C: Thank you for the internet.



Hosts the Girls' Cafe: Sinea

Today's Timetable

Art Show (Otto von Guericke)

General Admission.....12:00 - 18:00

Dealers Den (Berlin/Dresden)

Supersponsors.....12:00 - 13:00

General Admission.....13:00 - 18:00

Main Stage

Banner Brawl.....13:00 - 15:00

2, the Ranting Gryphon.....15:30 - 17:30

Kage's Story Hour.....18:00 - 20:00

Fursuit Group Photo.....20:30

Fursuit Friendly Dance.....21:00 - Open End

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim II)

Registration.....11:00 - 12:00

Photoshoot.....12:00 - 15:30

Fursuit Gameshow Preliminaries (Lobby)

Registration.....13:00 - 13:30

Preliminaries.....13:30 - 15:30

Special Interest Groups

Meet the Guest of Honor (München)

.....12:00 - 13:30

Far from Fear (Stuttgart)

Your First Furry Convention (München)

Computer Animation (Halle)

Ten Habits of a Successful Author

(Nürnberg)

Planning Pictures, Creating Concepts

(Magdeburg)

Press and Media Panel (Bonn)

.....14:00 - 15:30

Fursuiting 101 (Stuttgart)

The Last Unicorn (The Story behind...)

(München)

Return of the Hyper Anatomy Panel (Halle)

The Photographer's Eye (Nürnberg)

Puppet Building (Magdeburg)

Convention War Stories (Bonn, Superspons.)

.....16:00 - 17:30

Girls' Cafe (München, Girls Only)

21:00 - Open End

Recurring:

Artist Lounge (Stuttgart)

19:00 - Open End

Game Corner (Halle & Overflow)

19:00 - Open End

Warhammer 40k Corner (Nürnberg)

19:00 - Open End

Dance Dance Revolution & Dance Central

(Bonn)

19:00 - Open End

The Daily Eurofurence is still looking for writers and photographers! Interested? Come see us at our office, next to ConOps!