

# Critttertude



Happiness is a

Warm Tush

Volume One

# Crittitude

Volume One

Happiness is a  
Warm Tush

## **Crittertude, Volume One: Happiness is a Warm Tush**

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**Crittertude** can be viewed on the Internet at [www.crittertude.com](http://www.crittertude.com)

Other Internet Tidbits of Worth:

- Teaching a Ferret to "Roll Over": [www.crittertude.com/madyvideo](http://www.crittertude.com/madyvideo)
- All About Mady the Ferret: [www.crittertude.com/mady](http://www.crittertude.com/mady)
- One of Six Bathtime: [www.crittertude.com/oneofsixvideo](http://www.crittertude.com/oneofsixvideo)
- Build Your Own European Starling Nest Box: [www.crittertude.com/starlingnest](http://www.crittertude.com/starlingnest)

## FORWARD

Long ago, a friend of ours from down-under chided us about not keeping up to date with our blog. In fact, there had been zero entries for over a year and our friend had a point. A single comic was created just for this reason, as if to say, "Look, at least there's something here now". Which resulted in a second comic the following day, and a third the day after that, and so forth.

You get the idea.

In the stories that follow, we've tried to remain true to the unique character of each of the household pets. Some are innocent; others are crafty; some lack a bit of both. All, however, are dear to us and, surprisingly enough, to our readers as well.

Perhaps the rising star in all of this is *Mady*, the squiggly ferret, who adds a certain unpredictability and air of innocence to the house. *Booper* the white fluffy dog is the guardian of the house and general underdog for the innocent (no pun intended). *Lazy Orange Fat Cat* is, essentially, a cranky behemoth with an appetite that is rivaled only by her girth. *Melvin* is our resident green cheek conure who constantly vies for attention and, according to a pet psychic reading once taken on a dare, secretly wishes that all the other animals in the house would just pack up, go away and die.

Sitting in the cage nearby, our Zebra and Java Rice finches share a common nest and are the best of friends. *Black Sneaky Cat* is an easy-going, silent observer that is often undone by his own desire for playtime and overall power. Finally, there's our dearly departed *One of Six*, the only surviving bird out of a litter of six baby European Starlings that took nest in our roof. And then there's the occasional household guest or two.

This publication is a collection of the first stretch of comics that were published from 2008 - 2009.

- The Critterture Gang  
[www.critterture.com](http://www.critterture.com)

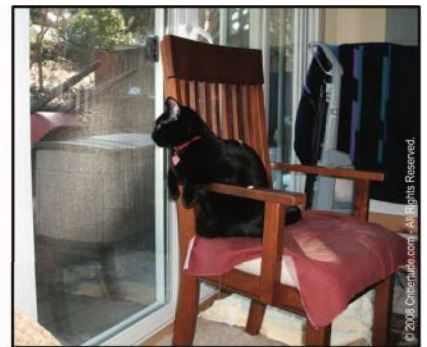


# For ☆ One of Six

*Without whom we would have never known  
the depth of love that a pet could ultimately invoke*



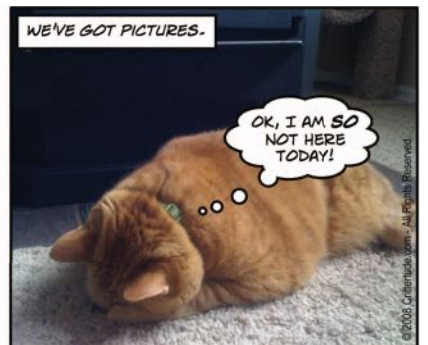
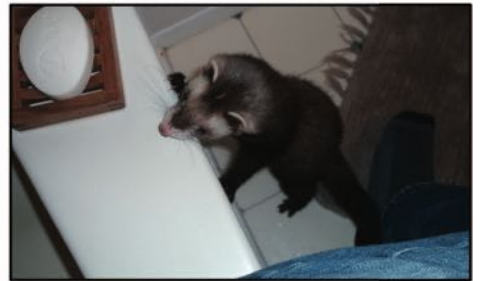
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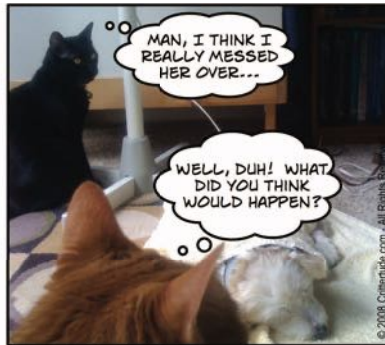




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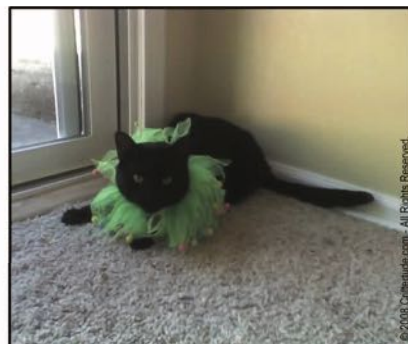




*Happiness is a Warm Tush*















*Happiness is a Warm Tush*



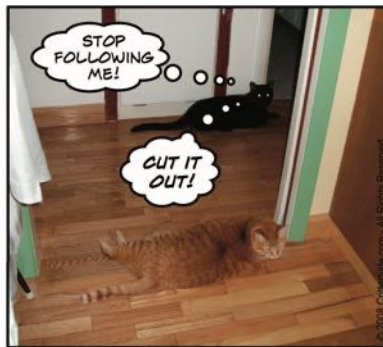




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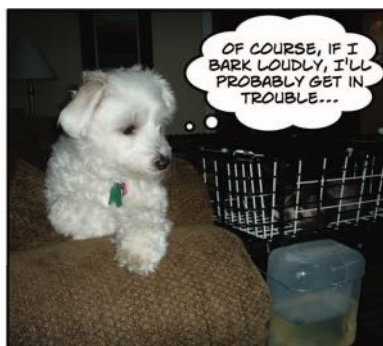


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*Crittitude Volume One*



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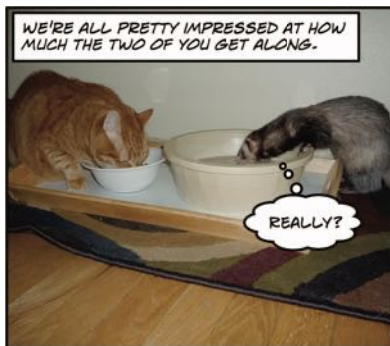




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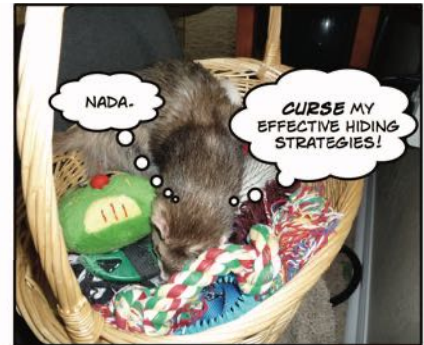








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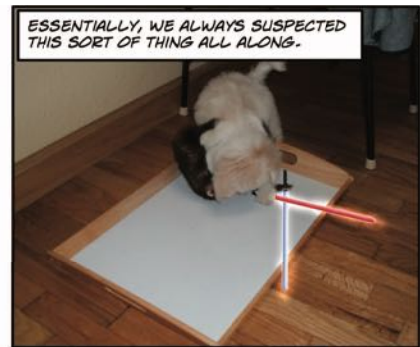
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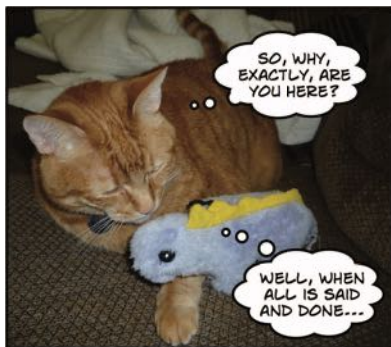




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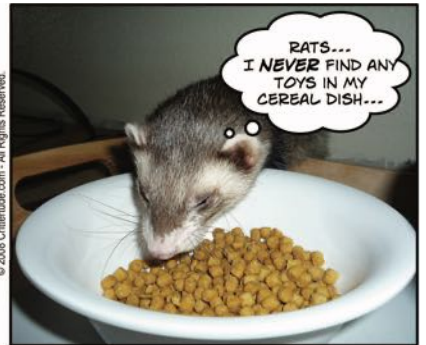


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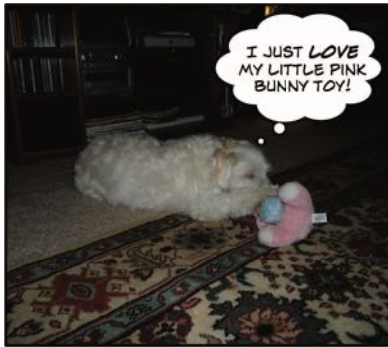


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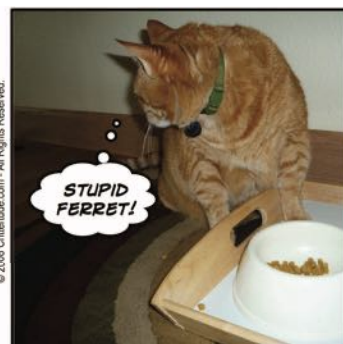












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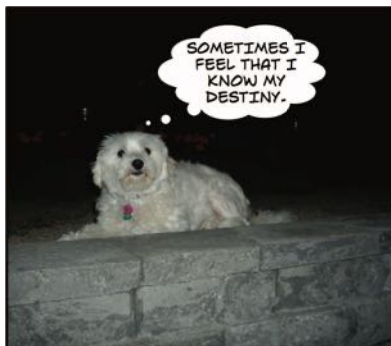




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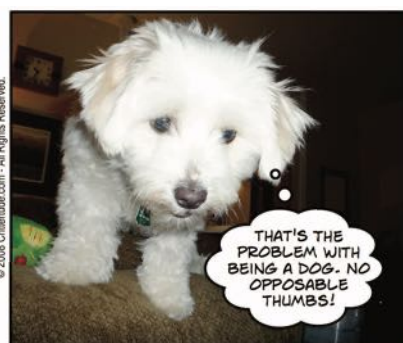
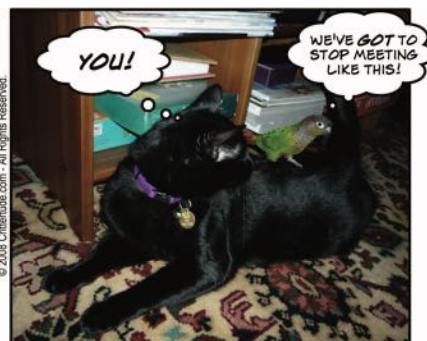












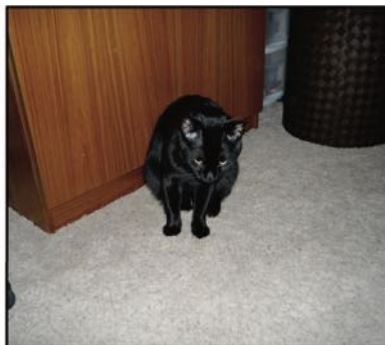


















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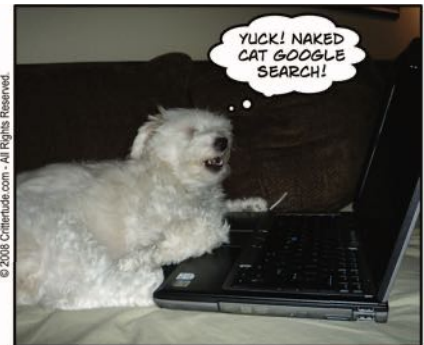


















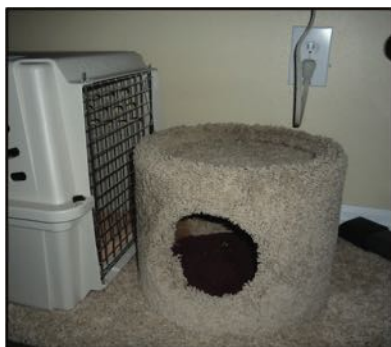
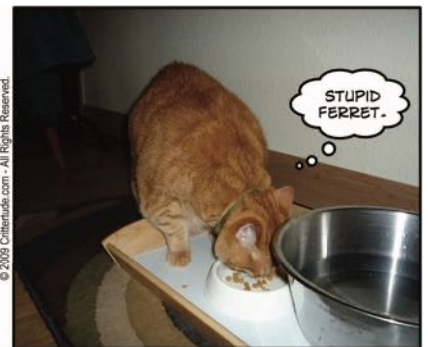




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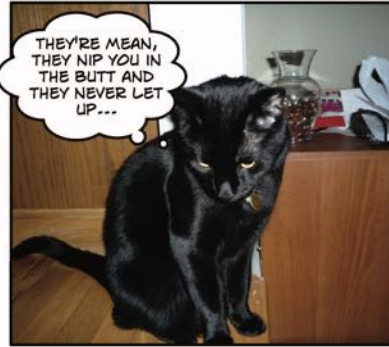
















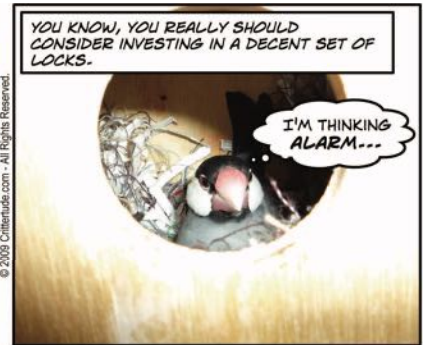


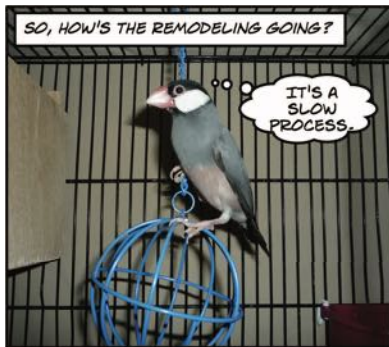
















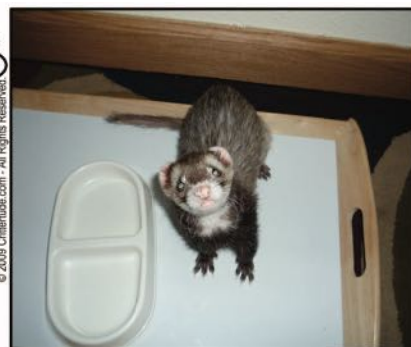
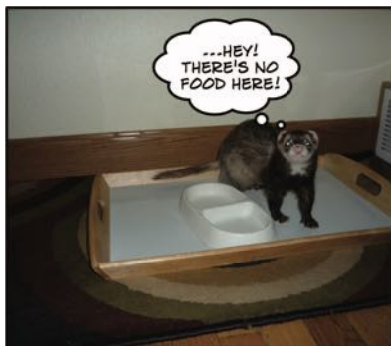








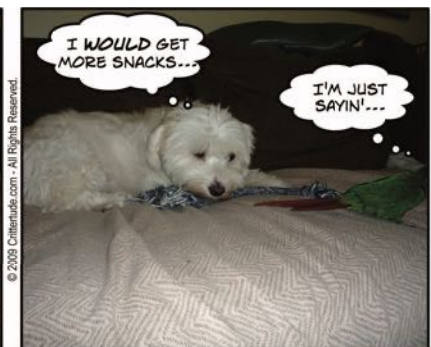












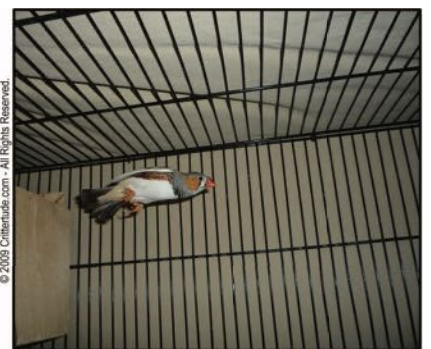




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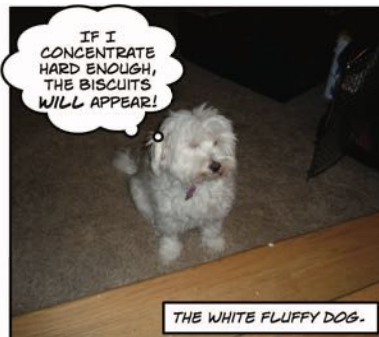








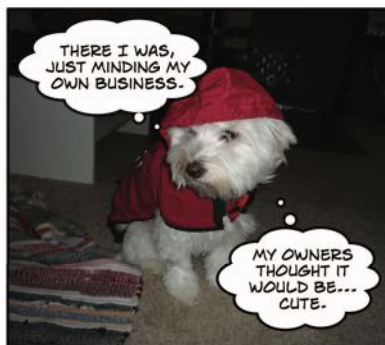
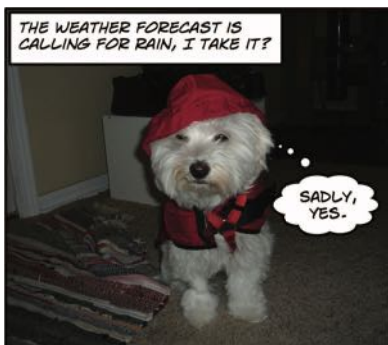
















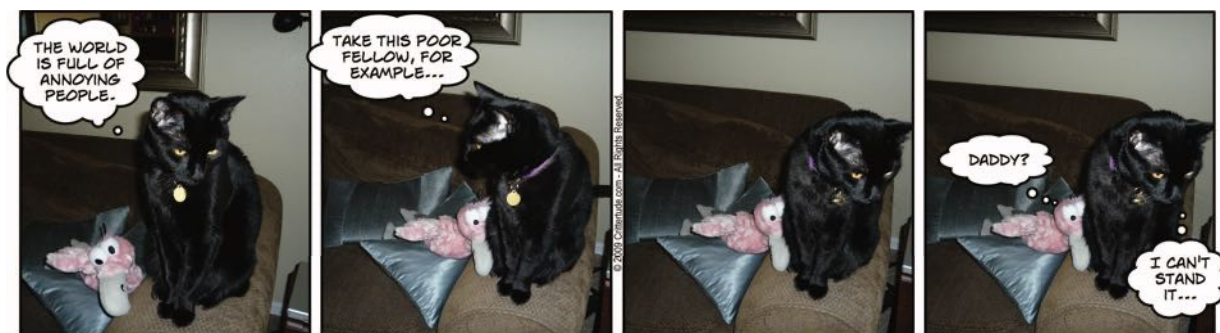






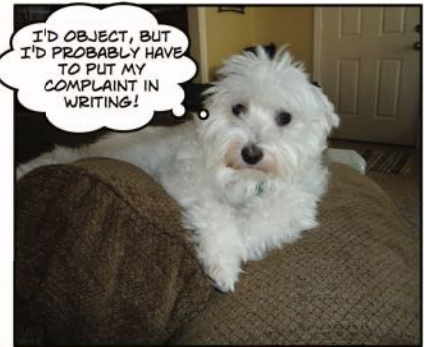








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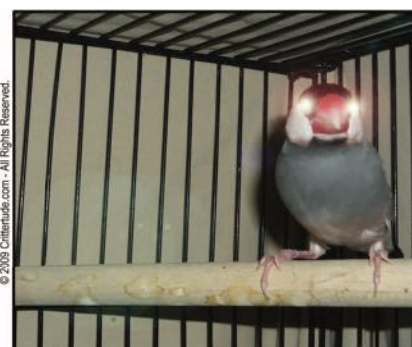


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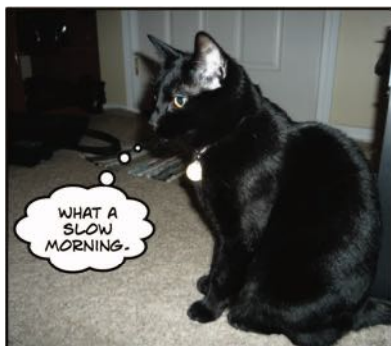








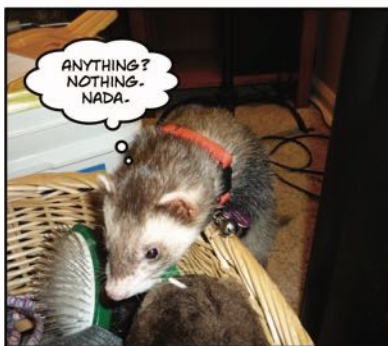








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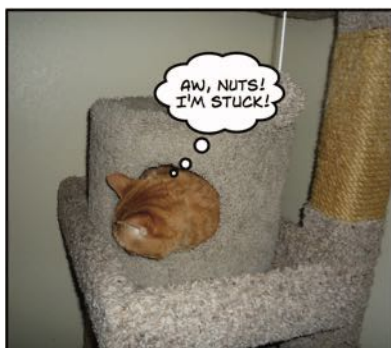




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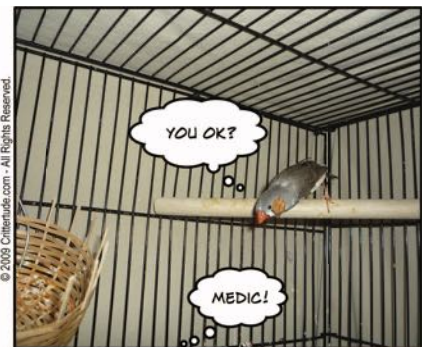




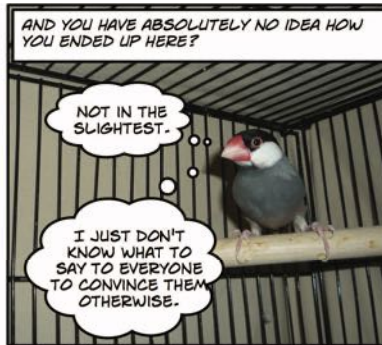








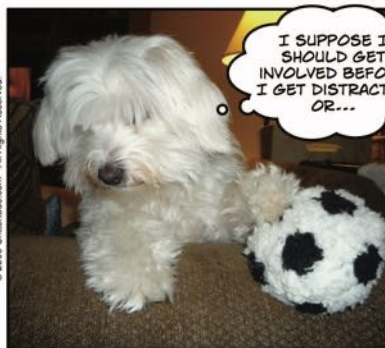




















## Editor's Note(s)

**Page 1.1** Technically speaking, this isn't the first comic that appeared on Critterture. Unfortunately, we just didn't have any hi-res, printable quality images lying around from that point in time. For the curious, the original unpublished comics can be seen at <http://critterture.com/first>

**Page 2.3** Mady absolutely *loves* the Roomba iRobot. Wherever it goes, he must make a mad dash to follow. While fascinating, fortunately he hasn't yet tried to attack it from underneath.

**Page 3.1** Ferrets are *the most* curious types of creatures around. They are fearless, opting to explore strange new places at the risk of personal endangerment. This is especially problematic if these places are high up. Another facet of a ferret is their almost obsessive-compulsive need to hide objects, whether it be keys, food or strange shiny objects. Mady's particular hiding vice is any rubber dog toy and, occasionally, cat food.

**Page 4.3** In reality, Booper had surgery to correct a slipped kneecap which was causing her difficulty in using her rear leg. The road to recovery was slow, likely painful, and definitely uncomfortable. Which caused no end in fascination for the cat.

**Page 6.2** Ferrets sleep *a lot*. About 18 hours each day is consumed by sleeping; the remaining six are available for fun, frolicking and play.

**Page 6.3** The finches are easily spooked by a great many number of things, one of which is most definitely Black Sneaky Cat. Their need to call for red alert and to abandon cage is not an unusual reaction, given their nature.

**Page 7.1** Oddly enough, the cat is sitting exactly where the finch cage usually sits.

**Page 7.3** This was an unexpected real-life train of events. Our Melvin bird is... *Melvina*? Our minds reel at the need to revisit our ability to accurately name birds and other critters of note.

**Page 8.2** This is probably the second-most popular Critterture comic.

**Page 9.2** If you look closely, you can see the collar around Booper's neck in the third panel. It's the equivalent to a cone for dogs who are, quite simply, too freaked out to wear a collar after surgery.

**Page 9.3** Around about this time, it became apparent that iPhone camera wasn't doing justice to the picture quality, and that a new camera was needed. You can tell the difference slowly between here and page thirteen, when the new camera was in use full swing.

**Page 10.1** Many of Mady's entertainment activities involve 4" underground tubing that have been installed inside his cage.

**Page 12.2** Little did we know how predictive this particular comic would be.

**Page 13.2** This is Mady's favorite pastime when he's outside of his cage. He can spend great lengths of time there. Sadly, he's recently discovered that he can push the water dish aside with his body, so we must cope with water all over the place. And yes, it's true: We have to change the water after he's done drinking to remove all the drool.

**Page 16.2** We love this particular punchline. It makes an occasional round throughout Critterture here and there.

**Page 18.1** This stuff is likely to be very salty, so this rarely happens. Birds don't metabolize salt very well.

**Page 18.3** Mady the ferret enjoys hiding cat food in various nooks and crannies around the house, much to the interest and delight of the often hungry cats.

**Page 19.1** This is another popular issue of Critterture. We really don't know why. As far as we can tell, it's not even that funny.

**Page 23.3** This is actually the first time the cats had ever met the ferret. They were extremely curious and cautious to no end, following Mady around the entire house.

**Page 24.1** Photoshopped, of course. Ironically enough, most of Critterture is *not* Photoshopped.

**Page 29.1** This is an insane amount of food. Nowadays, we would never put this much food out.

**Page 32.1** Fun Ferret Fact: Ferrets have very sharp teeth. Fortunately, they also have very tough skin. Which works out well for other ferrets during playtime or proper parenting. Where this can become a disadvantage is when they're playing with others species; specifically in this case, two cats and a dog.

**Page 33.2** Lazy Orange Cat seems to have gained a lot of her weight after being declawed several years ago, something we're not proud of. Give her any amount of food, and she'll eat, eat, eat!

**Page 33.3** Mady isn't much into playing with toys. Unless it's cat food or a hard rubber plastic chew toy, he'd rather spend his time exploring. Playing with any other toy is a rare treat to witness.

**Page 35.3** Surprisingly, the second Google search term for *Black Sneaky Cat* currently belongs to Critterture.

**Page 37.2** Usually, any given comic in Critterture consists of three to five times the amount of photos required. This is especially true of the ferret, who isn't apt to sit still in one place for long. If it exists and can be explored, it's fair game for the ferret. We have multiple blurred photos to prove it.



**Page 38.1** Booper and Mady occasionally explore this way, with Mady always playing the part of the bellwether. The reverse is never, ever true unless a chase is on.

**Page 38.3** Make no mistake about it: Lazy Orange Cat loathes and detests our occasional household guests. The cat's head tilted away from the dog should be a strong indication.

**Page 39.1** Mady, like most ferrets, is conditioned to accept only food that he's used to. He'll turn his nose up to treats, dog food and human food. His one weakness aside from his regular ferret food? Cat food.

**Page 41.3** This comic was an accidental re-use of the second comic on page 34. We actually think it worked out better and decided to keep both.

**Page 44.1** Yes, Melvin is actually flying here. It's night, thus the black background.

**Page 48.3** To our shock and dismay, the stuffed blue dinosaur has permanently disappeared. No doubt hidden in some corner of the house by Mady the ferret.

**Page 50.3** Regarding panel three: Indeed, *you* try holding a cat still while photographing both him and a flighty finch at the same time.

**Page 51.3** The wire mesh on the right side of panel three is galvanized wire, something we would never think of using these days in a birdcage.

**Page 52.2** Yes, Black Sneaky Cat really *is* annoyed at Mady.

**Page 55.2** These shots were amazing. Mady really cracks us up.

**Page 59.2** The blurriness is, amazingly, real. We have no logical explanation.

**Page 60.1** Ferrets are fearless. Mady, especially so. To go from one level to another lower level, he'll scoot down in reverse. It's some sort of ferret mindset thing.

**Page 61.1** As Mady loves to burrow into the couch, chicken wire was added to the bottom to keep him out.

**Page 65.1** Cue household guests.

**Page 67.3** This is one of our favorite issues.

**Page 72.3** Our Java Rice Finch died around this point in time. We found it a bit eerie to see our subsequently dead finch in action. As for the little zebra finch, he actually climbed into the blue wire ball all by himself.

**Page 75.1** This is one of the rare instances where a human being is pictured in Critterture. Normally we shy away from such events; cutting off the head gives us a little wiggle room, however.

**Page 77.1** In the original draft, the Java Rice Finch was supposed to say “gun” instead of “alarm”. It was changed to keep things more in line with the overall theme of the comic.

**Page 79.3** Observant viewers will note that the cat featured in panel three is not the same cat.

**Page 83.2** The third panel just makes us so sad! Mady is literally is devastated when he can’t find any of the cat’s food or water.

**Page 84.1** Black Sneaky Cat entered Mady’s cage of his own accord. It’s unclear what his goal was, although he does love to snack on ferret food on occasion.

**Page 85.2** Black Sneaky Cat has an uncanny habit of hiding deep within the covers of the bed, under carpets or beneath any variety of stealth-endowed objects. It’s a cat sort of thing.

**Page 86.1** This is one of our *least* favorite issues. It just doesn’t have any “finesse”.

**Page 86.2** You can notice the progression of Black Sneaky Cat’s eyes getting more squinty as he gets more and more annoyed with Melvin’s presence.

**Page 87.1** Melvin’s face in the third panel is typical of his “fight-or-flight” response to something that has startled him. We’re not sure exactly what that was in this instance.

**Page 87.2** Melvin dislikes flying, preferring instead to walk from point A to point B.

**Page 89.1** This little fellow, a European Starling, is a recent addition. We’ll formally introduce him as a new household critter in a few pages.

**Page 89.2** Capturing an up-close picture of a bird in flight, especially a small bird, is especially difficult. Perhaps over thirty pictures were taken to capture the first two shots.

**Page 93.3** Thus begins the introduction of One-Of-Six. Abandoned in a nest in our roof along with five other European Starlings, he was the only one to survive. Thus was born his poetic name. He’s been hand raised and is somewhat tame, despite his natural instincts. His favorite pastime is to eat hand-fed mealworms, bits of bread or to occasionally snuggle up for “cuddles”.

**Page 94.3** There is absolutely no way that One-of-Six would stand still that close to the dog in real life; in this instance, he was standing on a finger.

**Page 97.2** The reference to a transdimensional traveling cat is from an older comic, although we now realize we’ve potentially painted ourselves into a corner by the unintended description of Lazy Orange Fat Cat’s ability as “time traveling”.



**Page 101.1** This is, sadly, the last official issue before the real-life death of our first Java Rice Finch, who in reality passed away some months ago. Of our dearly departed Java Rice Finch, the little zebra finch tells us, “He was a true friend”.

**Page 101.2** For the curious, the cat is sitting underneath the table that holds the bird cages.

**Page 105.1** Thus begins the saga of our new Java Rice Finch. In reality, it’s been a few months since the original Java Rice Finch’s actual passing and the remaining Zebra Finch was quite lonely for the next few days. To our amazement, we were able to find another female Java Rice Finch, something of a rare event that we had never been able to duplicate by chance before. It took about a week for the two to warm up to each other; now they are the best of friends.

**Page 106.3** We’re not sure if she’s counting in binary or some bizarre, finch-related counting scheme.

**Page 107.1** This episode finally establishes, once and for all, what the primary objective of our new mechanical friend actually is. Which begs the question, “What would a finch do if one could actually catch a cat?” How this story line ran together is still unclear to us. It just seemed to “fit”. Actually, we’re quite amazed that the finch sat on the cat’s head long enough to be photographed in the first place.

**Page 109.2** Booper became severely ill around this time, ending up in the emergency vet office several times. Fortunately now, she’s doing fine.

**Page 112.2** For this comic, one of our readers commented, “Watch out Mady!!!! It’s a birdie!!!!” This still makes us laugh to no end.

**Page 115.3** Ilmatyynyalukseni on täynnä ankeriaita. Need we say more?

**Page 120.3** We couldn’t have planned these image sequences any better ourselves.

**Page 121.1** This particular sequence started out backwards, with the punchline established far before deciding how things would get there. Usually, it’s the reverse.





Join an unlikely cast of household critters both great and small as we celebrate Volume One of *Crittertude: Happiness is a Warm Tush*. From the innocence of Mady the squiggly ferret to the diabolical plans of the nefarious black sneaky cat, *Crittertude* is a place where life is magically transformed from the daily doldrum of existence to the realm of fantasy, imagination and the occasional unplanned mayhem.

Fans of the online comic have felt a strong connection to each of the characters over the years as they have made us laugh, cry and ultimately realize how the simple unconditional love of a pet can transform our lives in ways never before imagined.

