

Animal Boys



The Animal Boys are doing the Ramones, only the Ramones

THE BAND

Ratt Matt **Lead vocals**
Aebi **Guitar, vocals**
Rindli **Bass, vocals**
Gugi **Drums**

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On Christmas Eve 1992, five young guys (Matt, Gugi, Chrigu, Rindli, P.J.), who were part of the music scene in Bienne, formed a Ramones cover band called the "Animal Boys". By doing so, they hoped to escape the seasonal, family ritual of turkey and all its trimmings. They walked onto the stage of the Coupole for the first time and performed their Ramones covers. During the concert, the guitarist P.J. suddenly left the stage and at a later stage, the band. Unfortunately, the headliner (Bobby Bird), relieved them of their instruments for a reason which remains unknown to this day. The band did not let this get them down and thereafter played here, there and everywhere in clubs like Dälli, Burgdorf, Schopf Utzensdorf, ISC Bern and Creep Club Solothurn, just to name a few. They also blasted through various private parties and in doing so, damaged the ears of many punk rock freaks.

On 13 May 1993, the "Animal Boys", as opening band to "Les Sheriffs", played to a full house in the Coupole. For this concert, the second guitarist, Dürig, was on loan from the "Ventilators". Phippu of "Garbage Squad" played a sax solo on the song, "I Believe In Miracles". Due to unforeseen coordination problems, the solo was a flop, as a videotape proves to this very day.

At the Open-Air Barbarie in Bienne in summer 1993, "Animal Boys" played in front of an audience of two thousand and generated a mega pogo party.

They grabbed their golden opportunity to be the opening band of "Dee Dee Ramone" on 21 May 1994. Sad to say, the guitarist Chrigu was unable to be present at this opportunity due to commitments with his band "I Madman". At short notice Lex (the Executioner) of "X-Offender" was engaged and the Rock guru of Bienne, Hotcha, dressed in Mexican look, played second guitar when the band performed in Bikini Test in La Chaux-de-Fonds.

The "Animal Boys" tour of Germany 1995 amounted to one performance only, when dressed as the Ramones, they played in the "Asta Kneipe" in Rosenheim on 27 February 1995. This concert resulted in a demo-tape, "Animal Boys Live".

Chrigu moved to Toronto at the end of 1995 to establish a large family and promote himself as a rock star. Aebi from "Feebles" then joined the ranks as guitar player. The band members remained unchanged since, although for several gigs Rindli, Gugi and Aebi had to be replaced by ex-"Nameless" Bruno, R.J. and Stony. The "Animal Boys" enjoy playing with these guys not only because they are Ramones professionals but also because they lower the average age of the band. Later, also Păscu the "Feebles" drummer started playing with the group.



The "Animal Boys" experienced a further highlight on 20 February 1997, when they played as opening band for Marky Ramone in ISC Berne. Not over-impressed at his first meeting backstage with the "Boys", Marky was forced to grab his video camera at the soundcheck in order to capture on film, the tough guys from the rock capital of Switzerland. Finally, smiling from ear to ear, he said: "Okay, Boys, you guys are fuckin' cool, do it again! Hey ho let's go!"

Since their first concert which was supposed to be their last, the "Animal Boys" have given over one hundred other shows. The punk rock band planned to release their first vinyl single in Summer 1997...

Four years later during a memorial concert for Joey Ramone at the Bikini Test the time was right. The Animal Boys finally succeeded in recording one of their live gigs. Their first promo CD is called "Live at the Bikini Test July 2001".

The band celebrated their 10th anniversary at the Kreuz in Nidau together with "Obnoxious Deadbeat", "X-Offender", "Jerry and the final thoughts" and the "Animal Boys" from Germany. They're also a Ramones cover band which is extremely cool!

The "Animal Boys" returned to the Kreuz in Nidau on 17 December 2004 to make their best recordings of all times. Dr. D. Schneider, the "Godfather" himself, was the sound engineer during the concert and Dominic Schilt produced the smashy sound in his studio. The cool illustrations are made by Joe Merenda. Despite adverse circumstances he gave the best "Animal Boys" recordings of all times an appropriate appearance. The promo CD "On Crash Course" contains five great Ramones cover versions.

Let's not forget the various shows on smaller stages which were without a doubt some of the best gigs in the band's history. The "Animal Boys" played on the tiny stage of the Züri Bar and were squeezed into the In Flagranti in Biel, but it will never get any smaller than the Lokal-int Biel/Bienne where the "Animal Boys" played in an old kiosk at the "World's smallest Rock'n'Roll Festival" in April 2009. The audience enjoyed the Ramones sound through a tiny window in the vitrine and was having fun on the street outside of the kiosk!

The "Animal Boys" beer brewed by A. Dreyer & T. Teutsch after German purity law, was presented on 25 December 2010. There was no better place for this occasion than the Coupole in Bienne, birthplace of the band 18 years earlier. The Coupole was full at this Christmas night and the beer which was limited to 300 bottles immediately became thee "Animal Boys" cult merch item. Cheers!

