

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are technically mutants by origin and anthropomorphic by design, which places them in an overlapping gray area where they can be considered part of furry fandom culture.

**Mutants (In-Universe Origin)**  
**The Origin:** In almost every version of the story, they start as normal, real-life regular animals (baby turtles).  
**The Transformation:** They are exposed to a chemical substance called mutagen or radioactive "ooze".  
**The Result:** This science-fiction element physically alters their DNA, turning them into bipedal, human-sized creatures with high intelligence. In their world, they are literal mutants just like Master Splinter or Bebop and Rocksteady

**Furries (Design and Fandom Category)**  
**Anthropomorphism:** The definition of a "furry" character is an animal with human traits, standing on two legs, talking, and thinking like a person. The Turtles fit this visual and behavioral description completely

**The Overlap:** Because they are humanoid animals, parts of the furry community embrace them, and early TMNT tabletop roleplaying games even shared rules with general anthropomorphic game systems. However, many fans view them strictly as superhero action characters rather than traditional furry art