

= Animal ( Miike Snow song ) =

" Animal " is a song performed by Swedish indie pop band Miike Snow . It was released as the first single from the band 's 2009 self @-@ titled debut album on 17 February 2009 through Columbia and Downtown Records . Written by the band alongside Henrik Jonback , " Animal " is a pop song with instrumentation provided by horns and staccato synthesizers . Lead singer Andrew Wyatt has explained that it has an ambiguous meaning ; its lyrics can be interpreted as dealing with matters such as addiction , basic instincts or dissatisfaction when one 's needs are not met by society .

Applauding its catchiness and pop sound , critics were positive towards " Animal " . Following its release in the United Kingdom , the single managed to peak at number 98 on the UK Singles Chart , but failed to chart elsewhere . Two music videos were made to promote the release of " Animal " ; the first was directed by Sebastian Mlynarski and depicts the band wearing different animal masks , and the second video , directed by Anthony Dickenson , features a mixture of projections , animation and performance footage .

= = Background = =

" Animal " was written by Miike Snow 's three members , Christian Karlsson , Pontus Winnberg and Andrew Wyatt , in collaboration with Henrik Jonback . In an interview with Dustin Fitzharris of Out , Wyatt explained that the song has an ambiguous meaning , " It can deal with addiction . It can deal with just the basic instincts ? some of them are wonderful and some of them are very dangerous . " In a separate interview with Joe Zadeh for Clash , Wyatt deemed it a " very simple song " and elaborated on its subject matter , " Directing your attention to man 's underlying nature and how sometimes things in society just don 't work out to meet your needs . And a lot of people end up feeling very dissatisfied . And the way people feel the need to fit into certain circumstances without even thinking about what they want . " " Animal " was recorded at Robotberget , the band 's own studio in Stockholm , Sweden . The band produced the track and then mixed it with Anders Hvenare .

= = Composition = =

" Animal " is a pop song with horn and staccato synthesizer instrumentation . According to sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , the song is written in the time signature of common time with a moderate beat rate of 118 beats per minute . It is written in the key of E major and Wyatt 's vocal range spans the notes of B3 to C ? 6 . It has an E ? F ? m7 ? C ? m chord progression and a verse @-@ chorus structure . Sam Richards of NME and Ben Hogwood of musicOMH compared the sound and rhythm of the song to works by English band The Police , while Paul Lester of The Guardian likened lead singer Wyatt 's vocals to those of The Police lead singer Sting . Jason Lyman of AllMusic compared the hook to works by American band Vampire Weekend , and said that " dubby synths circulate around flighty vocals with heavy sentiments " . Wyatt sings lyrics such as " But I 'm still trying to make my mind up , am I free or am I tied up ? " with " unassuming cheeriness " , and the chorus contains the line " I change shapes just to hide in this place , but I 'm still , I 'm still an animal " .

= = Release = =

Downtown Records first released " Animal " as the band 's debut single on 17 February 2009 via digital download in the United States . The record label then sent it for alternative airplay in the country on 12 April 2009 . In the United Kingdom , Columbia Records first released the single as a 12 " remix vinyl on 27 July 2009 . The label later digitally released it on 7 August 2009 , and as a CD single on 10 August 2009 . The CD and digital releases in the UK include the song " Billie Holiday " , written by Karlsson , Winnberg and Wyatt , as a B @-@ side . A digital extended play ( EP ) with remixes by Crookers , Fake Blood , Fred Falke , Punks Jump Up and Style of Eye was released in

European countries on 7 August 2009 . Two remixes by Peter Bjorn and John and Mark Ronson were digitally released in the US on 8 December 2009 . Ronson 's remix also appears on the UK iTunes Store release of the band 's next single , " Black & Blue " ( 2009 ) . " Animal " was a minor chart success ; it charted at number 98 in the issue dated 22 August 2009 of the UK Singles Chart .

= = Critical reception = =

" Animal " received a positive response from music critics . Natalie Kaye of Contactmusic.com described it as a " solid pop song " , before adding that the " infectious " chorus is " irrefutably something you 'll end up whistling in the shower " . Similarly , Ian Wade of BBC Music commented that it " takes approximately one play for its catchiness to cluster bomb your memory bank " , and John Bergstrom of PopMatters called it " sharp , catchy pure pop " with a chorus that " charm [ s ] [ its ] way into your brain " . Rudy Klapper of Sputnikmusic commended lead singer Wyatt 's " chameleonic " vocals , calling them " a highlight from the beginning " . Klapper concluded , " [ ' Animal ' ] bounc [ es ] along a deceptively catchy progression to a jangly chorus that hits immediate pop pay dirt . " Neil Ashman of Drowned in Sound commented that it " boasts a number of indelible hooks worked around its staccato synth blasts " .

Jordan Bimm of Now described " Animal " as " catchy and creative " and said that the horns and the " playful vocal hook " will appeal to listeners who enjoyed Britney Spears ' " Toxic " ( 2003 ) , a production of Miike Snow members Karlsson and Winnberg . Sam Richards of NME viewed " Animal " as an " impressive piece of sleight of hand " and compared its sound to that of The Police , " while remaining bearable " . Ben Hogwood of musicOMH said that it sounds like a " lost Police song given a new , vividly coloured change of clothes " . He felt that the lyrical vignettes and hooks seem " awkward " during the first listen , and " gloriously different the next " . Hogwood furthermore said that this applied for the album as a whole . Marc Hogan of Pitchfork Media called it a " kiddie @-@ pop lilt " .

= = Music videos = =

Two music videos were released to promote " Animal " . The first video , directed by Sebastian Mlynarski , was released in July 2009 . It opens with the band performing on a street at night , holding umbrellas . The band then appears wearing different surgical masks with animal prints throughout the video . Near the end , they are seen performing in a grass field . Anthony Dickenson directed the single 's second music video , released in August 2009 . Dickenson created projections and sculptures , utilizing both animation and performance footage . The video features projections of a forest which turns into a city as the video progresses . It interspersed with shots of the band performing in a dark room . The video ends with the band 's jackalope logo being projected onto the cityscape .

= = In popular culture = =

The Punks Jump Up Remix is used as the opening credits theme for the Channel 4 sitcom Friday Night Dinner .

An A capella version of the song was featured in the episodic expansion pack Grand Theft Auto : The Ballad of Gay Tony , on the radio station Electro @-@ Choc .

The song was featured in the videogame Saints Row : The Third , on the radio station 89 @.@ 0 Generation X.

The song is played during the last segment of the episode ' Turn This Car Around " of Cougar Town .

The song is played during end of the episode ' The Lost Boy " of Gossip Girl .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting ? Christian Karlsson , Pontus Winnberg , Andrew Wyatt , Henrik Jonback

Production ? Miike Snow

Mixing ? Anders Hvenare , Miike Snow

Mastering ? Ted Jensen

Credits are adapted from the Miike Snow liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =