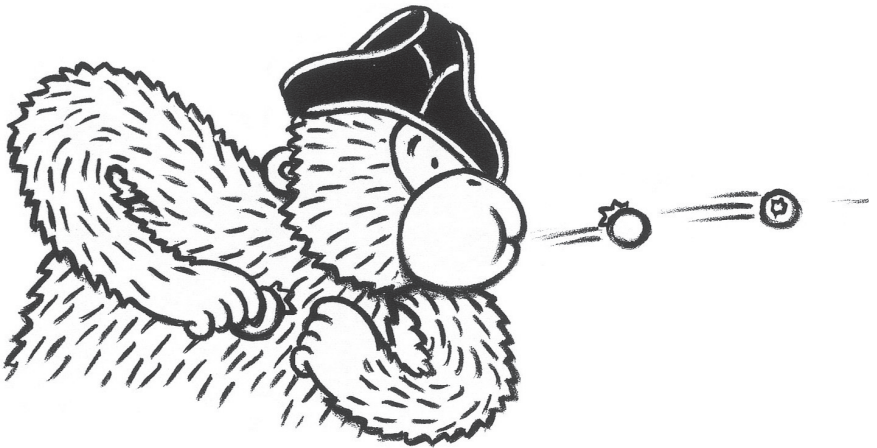


2 Escaped Bushes and Major Hair Accidents

Batpants has small ears, big eyes and an even bigger mouth, which she loves to fill. She likes apple crumble, roast chicken and small tomatoes.

She eats the apple crumble and chicken, but she doesn't eat the tomatoes. Instead she likes to load them into her mouth. Then she purses her lips and blows the tomatoes back out at high speed, like a machine gun.



RATTA – SPLATTA – SPLATTA!

Mum and Dad have banned Batpants from shooting people with tomatoes, but Finn and I still smuggle her some when we can. We usually eat in the big kitchen so you can probably guess that the walls are a bit messy now. There's a very interesting tomato-pippy effect splattered across them. Visitors often spend hours staring at the walls, trying to work out how it was done. We don't tell them.

Batpants managed to hit Zak once, right in

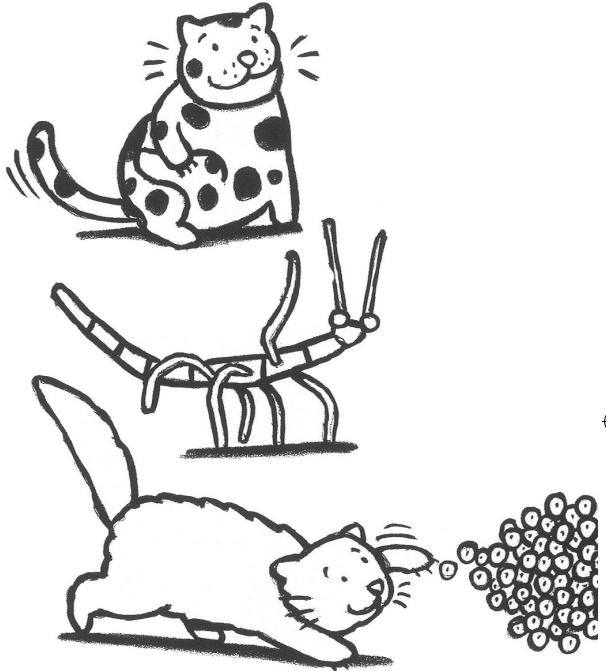


the middle of his forehead. *SPLAPP!* Finn and I thought that was the most brilliant thing EVER.

You may think that it's odd to have a pet orang-utan who machine-guns people with tomatoes, but in fact they are very brainy beasts.

They're clever with their hands and feet too.

They could pick their noses with their toes if they felt like it. Luckily, they don't often feel like it.



Besides, for us, Batpants was just another of the animals we have around the place. We have three cats – Cookie, Crumpet and Teacake.

Then there's Horse the donkey (Zak's joke),
and Twiglet the giant stick insect (Dad's joke).

We also have a bearded dragon lizard known as

Betty, and some
frogspawn called
– guess what –
frogspawn.

As if that's not
enough, there
is also Finn's
private collection
of interesting
creatures. He
collects things
like earwigs,
beetles, worms,
woodlice, spiders,

caterpillars and anything that's small enough and
slow enough for him to capture. (Yes, I know, he's
VERY strange, but he's my little bro so I just have
to put up with it.) He mostly keeps them in boxes,

