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The Cow, known in the plural as cattle, are large members of the Bovidae family. Their closest relatives are bison, buffalo, antelopes, sheep, impala, and more. Researchers believe that our domestic cattle descended from the wild aurochs, which are now extinct. Scientists believe that cattle domestication occurred about 10,500 years ago. Read on to
learn about the Cow.Description of the CowNowadays, Cows come in many shapes and sizes. These bovines range in size from the tiny Vechur, which stands just three feet tall, to the massive Chianina from Italy. This enormous breed grows over five feet tall,
and weighs several thousand pounds!Interesting Facts About the CowAll of the different breeds of Cow are actually the same species. Learn a little more about a few fun breeds of these animals below. Chianina - This breed is now used for meat production
and for show. Farmers often cross breed this Cow with other breeds to change the meat quality. Holstein Friesian, also known simply as "Holstein," is the black and white version that you picture when you think of milk, and that graces nearly every milk carton. Humans originally bred this
variety in Friesland, in the Netherlands, and in Schleswig-Holstein in Germany. Texas Longhorn - Drawn to notoriety, this breed is best known for its massive headgear. Whether it's a football mascot or a chain restaurant, longhorns make big impressions. The Texas longhorn bull can sport a pair of horns up to seven feet across! American Brahma -
This dopey-looking breed is downright adorable. American brahma cattle have long, floppy ears, and a large hump on their shoulders. To top it all off, their neck and chest feature a large flap of loose skin, known as a dewlap. Habitat of the CowResearchers aren't quite sure what the exact original habitat of the aurochs was, though it was likely open
grazing land. Nowadays, cattle live in pastures and ranges of open area. Some of the different types of habitats they utilize include savannas, scrub forests, and even desert edges. As long as they have lots of space and plenty of grass, Cows are happy. Distribution of the CowThese are not wild animals, and thus do not have a wild distribution. However,
they live virtually worldwide. Every inhabitable region, with the exception of Antarctica (we're not sure if this counts as inhabitable in the first place) contains cattle. Cows have worldwide distribution, thanks to the people that breed them. Different breeds of cattle are more common than others, particularly in different regions of the world. Diet of the
CowCattle are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. As herbivores, they primarily graze for grass, rather than browse on plants and shrubs. A single Cow can eat over a hundred pounds of grass in a day! These prodigious eaters spend half their days grazing, and the other half chewing the food they just ate. While cattle rest, they regurgitate
their food and chew it to aid digestion. This is called "chewing their cud." It takes an incredibly long time for cattle for several different purposes, including meat, milk,
labor, and companionship. They are incredibly common animals, though different breeds are rarer than others. The species as a whole is in no danger of extinction, but some breed them for several different purposes, including meat,
milk, dairy products, and pulling plows or carts. Their domestication occurred about 10,500 years ago. Does the Cow Make a Good PetCows do make good pets in an agricultural setting. Some breeds are friendlier than others, while others can be quite aggressive. It is important to do all your research before purchasing any animal to ensure you can
properly care for them. Cow CareThese animals require extensive care and space, because they are quite large. Cows are social, so must live in groups, and those groups must have lots of acreage to roam. They need lots of grass to eat, and additional hay to supplement their diet if the grass is not optimal, especially in winter. You must also milk dairy
Cows daily while they are producing milk. Care of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly based on the use and the number of cattle varies slightly b
pole" hierarchy vary based on age, size, and gender. They usually do not fight very frequently, but maintain bonds between individuals and use mock fights to settle disputes. Less dominant animals lick those higher in the pecking order. Herds of cattle spend much of their time foraging for food, and then resting while they chew that food a second
time as cud. Reproduction of the CowCattle are polygamous, and a single male breeds with many different females in his herd. After breeding, females have a nine-month gestation period before giving birth to a single calf or a pair of calves. The calf can stand soon after birth, and quickly begins walking and following its mother. The mother weans the
calf off her milk when it is about six months old. By the time calves are a year old, Cows reach sexual maturity and can reproduce. Beliefs, Superstitions, and Phobias About the CowCattle are important animals in human culture. Their importance and symbolism vary based on the region,
people, and the religion at hand. Those in the Hindu religion revere cattle, and in some areas killing cattle are also present in many other religions, artwork, and pop culture media, they appear in paintings and statues, television shows, the Chinese Zodiac, and more. Cow is one of the most common and largest
domesticated animals that we have around. This strong and fearless member of the Bovidae family is found in almost all the countries of the world. Cows are domesticated animals that are responsible for meeting around 90 % of the dairy needs of the total world population. Regarding their body coloration, these creatures are found in different single
colours or colour combinations, as you can see in the cow pictures. Apart from serving for various domestic and dairy needs, these animals maintain the status of sacred animals in several countries and religions across the globe. In ancient Hinduism, beef consumption is taken as the most heinous of all the sins that a man can ever commit. "Bull" and
"Calf" are the specific terms used for the male and female counterpart of a cow respectively. The number of these creatures is over one billion in the world that have different cow breeds! Cow Habitat The cow habitat shows variations in its physical characteristics and primarily depends upon its breed. Being herbivores, these animals prefer to inhabit
areas with plentiful access of grass, stem and other plant materials. You might have heard that a cow has four stomachs. To rectify you, it's untrue. A cow has only one stomach that is divided into four
compartments that enables them to digest grass and grains with greater ease. Cows are ruminants. When the food is scarce, they make the use of already existing food by regurgitating it. Cows also need sufficient water to keep them hydrated. The manure of these mammals is widely used in making fertilizers. Predators Cows, due to their enormous
size and sheer power find a very few natural predators in their wild habitats. However, depending upon the location of their habitats, wolves, lions, cougars and beers have remained a serious threat to these grazing animals. Amazing Cow Facts A typical cow produces 200,000 glasses of milk in her life span. These mammals are never comfortable
while bending their knees. It is one of the amazing cow facts that they can go upstairs but are unable to come down. These domesticated mammals possess a better vision than human beings. Cow is revered in Hindu religion. These
incredible mammals and humans share the same gestation period of nine months. These mammals do not have four stomachs around grass instead of eating it.
There are about 920 different species of cows, bulls, oxen, or calves. Cattle are the most common to human beings. Its a lot of cows! One can guess their age by counting the number of rings on its horns. Dairy cattle may be cows, bulls, oxen, or calves. Cattle are the most common
type of large domesticated hoofed animals. They are a prominent modern member of the subfamily Bovinae. Cattle are large grazing animals with two-toed or cloven hooves and a four-chambered stomach. This stomach is an adaptation to help digest tough grasses. Cattle can be horned or hornless, depending on the breed. The horns come out on
either side of the head above the ears and are a simple shape, usually curved upwards but sometimes down. Cattle usually stay together in groups called herds. One male, called a bull will usually stay together in groups called herds. One male, called a bull will usually stay together in groups called herds.
strong legs and can walk a few minutes after they are born, so they can follow the herd. Cattle are native to many parts of the world except the Americas, Australia and New Zealand. Cattle have been domesticated for about 9,000 years. They are used for milk, meat, a source of money, transport, and companions. Watusi cattle are herded in Africa.
The word cattle has been used in English for about 1,000 years and the meaning has changed. In books such as the King James Version of the Bible, the word is used for all sorts of farm animals, including horses, sheep and goats. The word cattle is used
for some wild animals as well as for domesticated cattle. Wild cattle in Clude the water buffalo from South East Asia, the musk ox and yak from Central Asia, the bison of North America and Europe and the African buffalo. The last aurochs, wild cattle in the modern
way. This article is about the domestic farm animal, and not the wild cattle which still live in some parts of the world. The word "head" is used by farmers when they count the number of cattle" is not usually used. Danish Red cows and calves. An
the act of a cow or heifer giving birth to a calf. Because very few bulls are needed to breed with many cows and heifers, and to take away the male characteristics that
are common with bulls. A male that has been castrated before reaching puberty is called a steer. An ox is a male bovine that has been castrated after puberty and is trained and used for draft purposes, such as pulling a plow or a wagon. Cattle can either be horned, which are two bony points coming out on either side of a beast's head, one on each
side, or polled, where no horns are grown but a somewhat pointy poll is found at the top of a cow's head. The adjective that is used to describe some other large animals that are not related to cattle, such as elephants, moose and whales.
Highland Cattle are highly adapted to cold weather. Cattle are found all over the world, from as far north as Canada and Russia to the dry inland of Australia. The only continent they are not found on is Antarctica. Different types and breeds of cattle are suited to
subtropical and tropical areas, whereas Bos taurus cattle such as Angus cattle are more suited to temperate or colder climates. Their large wide hooves are good in both wet areas and dry grassland. Their hairy coat grows much longer in the winter and has an extra fluffy layer to hold in warmth. They shed this extra layer in springtime in preparation
for the hot summer ahead. Most cattle, except those of the Bos indicus subspecies do not have sweat glands in their skin, but their wet nose is a useful cooling system. They can also pant like a dog as well. Cattle can make a range of noises, from a gentle "moo" to a low growl in warning or to attract females, especially among bulls. When they are
angry or upset, they can bellow or bawl quite loudly. Calves are said to bawl, cows moo and bulls bellow. Cattle are herbivorous, meaning that they are plant-eating (primarily grass) animals. Eating grass is called "grazing". They have very strong tongues and strong lower front teeth that help them to graze. Unlike a horse, cattle do not have any
upper front teeth. A cow often swallows grass whole. After a cow has eaten its fill and is resting, they return or regurgitate the grass from their stomach to their mouth and rechew it with their very large back teeth to break it down further. This is called "chewing the cud". Other ruminants like deer, sheep and goats also do this. Horses do not. This
means that cattle do not need as much food as horses, even though they are about the same size. Cattle are ruminants which mean they have a stomach with several chambers which helps digest their food more efficiently. A cow's stomach has four chambers called the reticulum, rumen, omasum and abomasum. The reticulum is known as the
"hardware" stomach because it is mainly used as a storage area for hard things that the cow might accidentally swallow like nails, rocks and other objects. The rumen is the largest chamber in a ruminant's stomach, and in cattle it can hold up to 50 gallons feed. It is the chamber where fermentation takes place to help break down the grass that the
cow has eaten. The omasum, also known as "many piles" is a compartment that squeezes or absorbs all the water that has accumulated from the digestion that has gone on in the rumen. The fourth chamber is the abomasum which similar in function to a human's stomach, and so is called the "true stomach." Cows have "breasts" called udders which
are joined in a large sac, often pink in colour, found hanging between the back legs. The udder is divided into four parts, or quarters, each with a large teat that the calf is born, and can continue to produce milk when bred again and when pregnant with
their next calf. Heifers, unless they have given birth to their first calf, do not produce more milk than what is needed to feed one calf. Dairy cows are female cattle that are raised to produce lots of milk for human consumption. Beef
cows, on the other hand, are female cattle that are used to raise a calf from birth that is used for beef later in its life. Both types of cows will keep producing milk as long as it is demanded, either by the milking machine, or by the human that is hand-milking them. When milk from them is no longer needed, they will not explode: they simply
"dry up," where the milk they produce is absorbed or taken back in by their bodies. Cows are pregnant for around 9 months, or an average of 280 days. Young cattle sometimes fight to sort out the order in their herd. Bulls can often be fierce and dangerous, especially in the presence of their herd of cows and heifers. In the wild, they will often fight
each other over mating rights and their herds of cows and will use their horns to gore each other. Some bulls will fight to the death: others will fight until either one of the bulls decides to run off. They also protect the herds from other animals such as wolves, jackals, bears, tigers and lions. On farms, bulls are usually quieter and more docide and can
be led by a nose-ring by their owners, but they can be aggressive with other bulls and with strange people or animals who might get too near his herd. Dairy bulls like Jerseys and Holsteins tend to be more aggressive with other bulls of beef breeds like Hereford and Angus. Not all cattle have horns. Bulls with no horns fight by head-butting the other's head,
neck, side or belly, and will use their heads to push each other around. For the reasons above, most male cattle are either sent to slaughter while they are still calves or are castrated so that they are much less likely to fight each other, or be aggressive towards the farmer that is raising them, making them safer to handle and keep until it is time to
send them to market. Steers have no other purpose except to be raised, sold and slaughtered for beef. Water buffalo ploughing a rice paddy in Cambodia. Ever since people started using cattle in prehistoric times, cattle have been a sign of wealth. In many countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, a person's wealth is judged by the number of cattle
they own. Different breeds are used differently. Cattle are very useful animals. Their flesh can be eaten as meat. Their milk can be drunk and turned into cheese and yoghurt. Their skin can be used as leather. They can pull carts and plows. They can make the power to turn flour mills or pump water. The food that they eat is not expensive, and often
not in competition with what people eat. An Ayrshire calf on a hill in Austria. Dairy cattle are kept and raised specially for milking. Herds of cows are kept and are regularly mated with a bull, so that they produce calves. This keeps the milk supply going. However, most commercial dairy farms do not keep bulls because of the concern that such bulls
are very dangerous when being handled. Instead, cows are artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is "bred" by a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is a person who artificially inseminated with bull semen that is stored kept frozen in liquid nitrogen, and is a person who art
of grass and the fields are relatively small, but not so small that they are not able to graze regularly during the season when grass is growing. This is because the cows need to be brought in for milking every day, twice a day, and should not have far to travel. A number of dairy herds are kept in barns or sheds for most of their lives and are given feed
that has been especially made for them. This feed contains grain like corn, hay including grass and alfalfa or clover, and fermented chopped feed called silage that is usually made from corn, wheat or barley. Cows are often kept in stalls where they have enough room to lay down comfortably. Such large dairies must supply straw or saw dust for the
cows to rest on without getting sore from the hard concrete floor. Cows can be milked by a milking machine. The milk is collected in a large stainless steel container where it undergoes pastuerization, a process that heats milk to a very high temperature to kill any
bacteria that are living in the milk. The milk is then put into bottles or cartons to be made into the milk we drink by being separated to remove most of the cream. It is then put into bottles or cartons to be sold. Some milk is also turned into cheese, ice cream, butter, cream and even yogurt. All of these dairy products are packaged or put
into cartons or bottles and sold. Friesians are well-known dairy cattle. Many types of cattle are used for milk. They include: the Australian Illawarra, which is large, irregularly spotted red and white with short up-curving horns, or polled. the Brown Swiss, which is large, irregularly spotted red and white with short up-curving horns, or polled. the Brown Swiss, which is large, irregularly spotted red and white with short up-curving horns, or polled. the Brown Swiss, which is large, irregularly spotted red and white with short up-curving horns.
(smaller than the Holstein), brownish-grey to dark brown (often grey as well) with a light-coloured muzzle, belly and udder, the Guernsey, which is large, spotted black and white (some cows can be mostly black or mostly white) with short inward-curving horns. Some
Holsteins are also polled or hornless. the Jersey, which is small and fawn or dun colored with a dark face, or eye patches, black mose, hooves and front part of the lower legs. Some Jerseys are also black with a fawn saddle patch over their back. They do not give as much milk as the other breeds, but it is famous for the amount of cream they produce.
Jerseys can be horned or polled, with horns often being short and curving upwards. the Milking Shorthorn, which is medium-sized to large, deep red to roan and short, upturned horns or polled. The black and white cow is found in most places owning cattle is a sign of wealth. Beef cattle are bred and raised specifically to provide meat
or beef. Steers are the best type for this purpose because they can be kept in herds without fighting each other. Heifers are also often used for beef, especially those that are not usually used for milk, although some types of
cattle, such as the Red Poll, Dexter or Red Devon (also known as the North Devon or Devon) are used for both. These type of cattle are called dual purpose breeds. Beef cattle are often allowed graze over large areas because they do not have to be brought in every day like dairy cattle. The biggest farms in the world are cattle stations in Australia,
ranches in North America and ranchos in Latin America where they run beef cattle. Until the mid 20th century, beef cattle were often sent to market on the hoof. Cowboys or drovers would be loaded and shipped to these
marts, slaughter plants or other farms or ranches by large semi-trucks called cattle liners. A Symonds bull used for breeding beef cattle. The meat from a calf is called 'steak'. Every part of a beast can be used. The skin becomes leather. The meat which
is not used by humans becomes pet food and almost everything that is left over becomes garden fertilizer. Many other products can be and are often made from parts of cattle. Cow's blood is often used in special effects in the creation of action
or horror movies. Bones from cattle can be made into knife handles or napkin rings. The list is endless. Types of cattle that are used for beef: Angus, which are medium-sized black, polled cattle, originating from Angus in Scotland. Angus onto
Hereford cows or heifers to get black-baldies. Angus is the most popular beef breed in the United States from several breeds imported from India. Brahmans are highly adapted to the hot, tropical climate of the southern USA
due to the loose, thick skin, and large ears. Bulls have large humps over their shoulders that are filled with fat, whereas cows only have small humps. This breed has been used in creating several hybrid beef breeds such as Beefmaster, Brahmousin, Brangus, Simbrah, and Brahford. Charolais, which are very large, white, often horned cattle (though
many are also born polled) originating from France. These cattle are very muscular, and known for lean meat. They are also a good cross on Angus or Hereford-Angus cross calves for the meat market. Hereford, which are medium to large-sized cattle (some cattle are small, like the Lowliness) red cattle with white faces, white nape over the neck
(some lack this), white legs, belly and throat, and may be horned or polled. Bulls tend to have horns growing down, whereas cows will have horns growing the legs, belly and up underneath the tail. Like Charolais, they originate from France and
are heavily muscled, also prized for meat quality and being used as a breed for cross-breeding to produce calves for beef. They can be either horned or polled. Red Angus and Red Angus cattle are recognized as separate breeds. Shorthorn,
which are medium-sized to large red, white or roan cattle, sometimes horned or polled. Simmental, which are quite large, reddish-brown to light-brown to lig
for beef. This breed can be horned or polled. Texas Longhorn, which are variable in colour and small to medium in size, but most noted for the very large, expansive horns. The Texas Longhorn cattle brought over from Spain in the late 15th
century. This breed is also the breed where legends and stories of cowboys and ranching in the Old West or Wild West stem from. Brahman steers with a load of sugar cane in India. Oxen are cattle trained as work animals. The word "ox" is used to describe just one. They are castrated males (steers). An ox is over four years old and grown to full size
when it begins to work. Oxen are used for pulling plows and wagons, for hauling heavy loads like logs or for powering different machines such as mills and irrigation pumps. Texas Longhorn steers were used to pull heavy wagons in the USA. Oxen are most often used in teams of two for light work such as plowing. In past days, very large teams of
fourteen to twenty oxen were used for heavy work such as logging. The oxen are put into pairs and each pair must work together. A wooden yoke is put about the neck of each pair, so that the work is shared across their shoulders. Oxen are chosen from certain breeds with horns, since the horns hold the yoke in place when the oxen lower their heads,
back up or slow down. Oxen must be trained from a young age. The owner must make or buy as many as a dozen yokes of different sizes as the animals grow. Ox teams were called teamsters in America, wagoners in Britain, or in Australia, bullockies
Many bullockies and teamsters were famous for their voices and for their voices and for their foul language. Oxen can pull harder and longer than horses, especially for very large loads. They are less often injured or less likely to startle than horses are. Many oxen are still in use all over the world, especially in poor countries. In Tibet
the Yaks are treated with honour by their owners. According to Hinduism, the cow is holy, and should not be eaten: "the cow is our Mother, for she gives us her milk." See: sacred cow. In Portugal, Spain and some Latin American countries, bulls are used for the sport of bullfighting. In many other countries, this is illegal. A mistaken idea about cattle
(mostly bulls) is that they become angry when they see the color red. This is not correct. Cattle cannot see red, because they do not have yellow and blue receptors in their eyes. This mistake comes from seeing Matadors or bull-fighters using a
red cape to encourage a bull to charge at them. But really, red is a color that is only used as part of Spanish tradition and culture. It is also a way to make the matador more visible from the crowd, and enables people in the crowd to easily see what is going on, and also as a way to excite them. Thus, it is merely the motion of the cape that makes a bull
charge, not the colour. An angry bull or bull that is threatening you will charge if you move or if something, no matter the color, is waved in front of his face. The Ox is one of the 12-year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese Zodiac related to the Chinese Zodiac re
mouth for eating grass, wet nose, big eyes with long lashes, large ears that can turn, and horns. This new-born calf has been licked clean by its mother. White Park Cattle have black noses and ears. They are a rare breed. A calf suckling from a cow's udder. A milking machine has cups which fit onto the cow's teats and suck the milk through tubes to a
large container. When cattle have eaten, they often lie down to re-chew the grass they have swallowed. This is a cross-bred bull with a hump and smooth coat of a Brahman. The wild aurochs, are extinct but cattle have been bred that are like the wild aurochs. In some countries Bullfighting is a sport. Different places have different
rules about whether the bulls get killed. Water Buffalo and their importance Zebu Wikispecies has information on: Bos taurus. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Cattle. Cattle Breeds website - Oklahoma State University PBS Nature: Holy Cow (about cows in general) Archived 2014-10-13 at the Wayback Machine Retrieved from "Cows are
members of the sub-family 'Bovinae' of the family 'Bovinae' of the family also includes Gazelles, Buffalo, Bison, Antelopes, Sheep and Goats. Cows are raised for many reasons including: milk, cheese, other dairy products, also for meat such as beef and veal and materials such as leather hide. In older times they were used as work animals to pull carts
and to plow fields. In some countries such as India, cows were classed as sacred animals with two toes on each hoof) that we see very often chewing the grass in farmers fields as we walk or drive through the
countryside. There is an estimated 1.3 billion head of cattle and 920 breeds of cow in the world today. Cows are referred to as the 'fosters mothers to the human race' because they produce most of the milk that people drink. The mature female of the species is called a 'cow'. The mature male of the species is called a 'bull'. A group of cows is called a 'cow'.
'herd'. A young female cow is called a 'heifer'. A baby cow is called a 'calf'. The cow (Bos primigenius taurus) is one of the most important domesticated animals in the world. It is raised in many countries for valuable natural resources such as milk, meat, and leather. In India, the cow is considered a sacred animal with deep cultural and religious
significance. This species was first domesticated in Asia around 7,000 years ago, descending from the aurochs—a large wild bovine native to Africa and Eurasia, known for its thick fur and long, curved horns. It is estimated that there are over 1.5 billion cows globally today. While most cows are raised by farmers, some populations, like the red cow
may still live in the wild. Cow seen from the front Cow Characteristics The cow is a large, hoofed mammal known for its robust body and grazing lifestyle. Cows typically live in herds of 40 to 50, spending most of their day feeding on grasses and shrubs in open pastures. While the size and shape of their horns vary by breed, modern cows are no longer
hornless in the wild, as hornless types have been bred out through selective genetics. The weight of a cow depends largely on the breeds such as Charolais, Marchigiana, Belgian Blue, and Chianina can reach weights of 635 to 1,150 kilograms
In all breeds, bulls are typically heavier than cows by several hundred kilograms. Physically, cows have large heads with a pair of hollow horns on each side. They possess short, thick necks and a noticeable dewlap (a hanging fold of skin) below the chest. One distinctive feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail, which ends in a tufting feature of the cow compared to other bovines is its long tail.
of coarse hair used to swat away insects. Their backs are generally straight, with slightly arched loins, and female cows have a prominent udder in the rear underside of the body, containing four nipples for milk production. A cow's body is covered in short hair that varies in color from white to black, including many shades of brown and red. Some
breeds have unique patterns or patches, while others display a solid color with contrasting areas of pigmentation. From an environmental perspective, cows play a significant role in greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
methane gas, primarily through belching and flatulence. Cow Vision and Eyesight Vision is the most dominant sense in cattle, accounting for around 50% of the sensory information they process. Their eyes are positioned on the sides of the head, giving them a wide 330º field of view, which helps detect predators from almost all directions. However,
this adaptation limits their binocular vision to just 30° to 40°, compared to the 140° range seen in humans. As a result, they have a blind spot directly behind them. Although their visual acuity is decent, it is significantly less sharp than human vision. A common misconception is that bulls are enraged by the color red, as often portrayed in bullfighting
In reality, cattle are color-blind to red, and it's the movement of the fabric, not the color itself, that triggers a reaction. This misunderstanding has persisted due to cultural practices rather than scientific evidence. Cow Taste Sensitivity and Preferences Cattle possess a highly developed sense of taste, supported by approximately 20,000 taste buds,
which allow them to distinguish the four primary flavors: sweet, salty, bitter, and sour. They instinctively avoid bitter-tasting substances, as these may indicate potential toxicity in certain plants. In contrast, they show a strong preference for sweet and salty flavors, which are more palatable and nutritious. Since plants are naturally low in sodium,
these animals have adapted to seek out salt using both their taste and smell receptors. When sodium levels are deficient, they rely on their acute olfactory and gustatory senses to identify even trace amounts of salt-containing food sources, ensuring their dietary needs are met. Cow Hearing and Sound Perception Cattle have a fairly sharp sense of salt-containing food sources, ensuring their dietary needs are met.
hearing, even more acute than that of horses. However, their acoustic acuity threshold is around 30°, which makes them less precise in locating sound sources the need to turn their heads toward a sound, as they can already visually
monitor their surroundings. Vocalizations, particularly low-frequency moos, serve as a key form of communication among individuals in a herd. These sounds can convey various types of information, including age, sex, and reproductive status. For example, calves use vocal cues to locate their mothers, while males may vocalize during mating season
to signal dominance or attract attention from females. How the Cow's Digestive System Works? As ruminant animals, cattle have a highly specialized digestive system designed to efficiently process a wide variety of plant-based foods. Contrary to the common belief that they possess four stomachs, they actually have one stomach divided into four
distinct compartments: the rumen, reticulum, often called the "honeycomb," plays a key role in trapping and collecting smaller particles. The omasum is responsible for absorbing water and nutrients, and the abomasum—known as the
"true stomach"—functions similarly to the human stomach, secreting digestive enzymes to break down food. One of the unique features of ruminants is their ability to regurgitate and re-chew partially digested food, a process known as rumination. Initially, food is swallowed with minimal chewing and stored in the rumen. Later, when the animal is at
rest, the food is brought back up, chewed thoroughly, and digested more effectively. The rumen is home to billions of beneficial microbes that help break down cellulose and complex carbohydrates found in plant matter. These microbes that help break down cellulose and complex carbohydrates found in plant matter.
Behavior and Temperament in Cattle of Cow Ear posture in cattle serves as a clear indicator of their emotional state and overall well-being. Temperament plays a crucial role in livestock management, as it can directly impact the quality of meat, milk production, and reproductive success. When an individual is under stress, other animals in the herd
can detect changes through chemical signals present in the urine. Short-term isolation can cause significant psychological distress, especially in social animals like cattle. To minimize stress during necessary periods of separation, mirrors are sometimes placed in enclosures. These reflective surfaces help simulate the presence of other herd members
reducing anxiety and promoting calm behavior. Habitat and Farming Systems Today, cattle are found all over the world, reflecting their vital role in agriculture and human livelihoods. These animals—particularly dairy breeds—are kept on large-scale
farms where conditions are closely managed to maximize milk production. In contrast, extensive systems involve raising livestock for beef, typically allowing them to graze freely in open pastures and natural environments. Feeding Habits of Cows As herbivores, these grazing animals primarily feed on grass, but their diet also includes stems, leaves,
seeds, and roots from a wide variety of plants. They spend a significant portion of the day—up to eight hours—engaged in feeding. This natural behavior supports their ruminant digestive system, which is specifically adapted to break down tough plant fibers and extract essential nutrients. Cows feeding on grass Natural Predators of the Cows The
primary predator of cattle is the human, due to widespread domestication and farming practices. However, in the wild and rural areas, these animals can also fall prey to various carnivores across different continents. In North America, wolves and grizzly bears occasionally attack livestock. In Asia, predators such as tigers and regional wolf species
have been known to target grazing herds. Across parts of Africa, lions and leopards are among the main threats, especially in regions where livestock graze near natural reserves. In Australia, the dingo, a native wild dog, sometimes hunts young or isolated animals, posing a risk to local cattle populations. Reproduction and Breeding in Cattle Cattle
have the ability to interbreed with closely related species such as yaks and bison, producing viable hybrids that are often raised for specific agricultural purposes. However, crossbreeding with buffalo is not possible due to significant genetic differences. Reproduction can occur year-round, though spring is considered the optimal season, as it typically
results in a higher number of calves born. The gestation period lasts approximately nine months, after which a single calf is usually delivered, weighing between 25 and 45 kilograms, depending on the breed. Young animals are referred to as calves until they are about two to three years old, at which point males are known as bulls and females
continue as breeding stock. Both males and females reach sexual maturity within their first year of life. A healthy female can continue to reproduce until around 12 years of age. In modern livestock farming, breeding may occur naturally or through artificial insemination, a widely used method to improve genetic traits and ensure reproductive
efficiency. Conservation Status Overall, cattle are not considered at risk and are classified as a species of Least Concern on the conservation scale. However, certain breeds face the threat of extinction due to changes in agricultural practices and declining demand. One example is the red cattle breed, historically used for farm labor, which has seen a
significant population decline in recent decades. Relationship with Humans Since domestication, cattle have played a vital role in human civilization, primarily as a source of essential products—including cheese, butter, and yogurt—are derived from cattle, making
them a cornerstone of agriculture, nutrition, and trade in many cultures around the world. Milk Production and Its Global Impact Milk production begins only after a female has given birth and continues as long as she is milked regularly. The resulting milk is a nutrient-rich food source, offering high levels of calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc,
iodine, selenium, and essential vitamins such as A, D, and B12. On average, a dairy animal can produce around 4,000 liters of milk per year, though high-yielding breeds may exceed 10,000 liters annually. During the 20th century, especially in Europe, milk became a staple in middle-class households, leading to a surge in demand. This growth pushed
dairy farms to adopt more efficient production systems, focusing on both quantity and hygiene. A key innovation in this process was the development of UHT (Ultra-High Temperature) treatment, also known as ultrapasteurization, which allows milk to be stored safely by eliminating harmful microorganisms without refrigeration. Despite its nutritional
value, excessive milk consumption has raised health concerns, particularly for individuals with lactose intolerance. Fortunately, modern dairy processing now includes lactose-free milk options, making dairy accessible to a wider audience. Milk is also the foundation for numerous dairy products, including cheese, butter, yogurt, and cream. Behind
these items lies a massive global dairy industry responsible for production, processing, and distribution to markets worldwide. Other Products Derived from the cows In addition to dairy, cattle are raised for beef production, with specific breeds such as Hereford and Charolais selectively bred for their high-quality meat. These breeds are known for
their superior marbling, texture, and flavor, making them highly valued in the manufacturing of coats, shoes, bags, and other durable goods. Similar to the dairy sector, a large-scale global industry supports the processing, production, and distribution of beef
and leather products, contributing significantly to the agricultural economy. A cow produces more than 50 liters of manure a day that is used as compost and fuel. Cattle in Popular Culture, Religion, and Folklore In Hinduism, particularly in India, the cow holds a deeply revered status and is considered divine and satvik, symbolizing purity, non-
violence, and maternal care. While historically there were periods of mass slaughter, today these animals are protected and respected, reflecting their sacred place in Indian society. According to the Mahabharata, they should be honored with the same reverence given to one's mother. Cattle appear frequently in Hindu scriptures such as the Vedas
and Puranas, although they do not have dedicated temples. The deity Krishna, who was raised by cowherds, is also known as Govinda, meaning "protector of cows." Additionally, Lord Shiva is traditionally depicted riding Nandi, a sacred bull that serves as his vehicle. In modern-day India, the slaughter of cattle, including bulls, oxen, and calves, is
strictly prohibited under the laws of the Indian Union. Outside of India, cattle also play a role in East Asian traditions. In the Chinese zodiac, the ox is one of the twelve symbolic animals, representing strength, reliability, and patience in the lunar calendar cycle. Source: Ruminant - Wikipedia Cows are domesticated mammals of the Bovidae family
They are often raised by humans for their work energy, milk, skin hide, meat, and even their dung (as manure). You'd recognized them by their huge body, clove hooves, horns (for most), and whipping tail. The name 'cow' is the general term used for the species, but the male is specifically called a bull, and the baby a calf. Cows may look sluggish and
dumb, but they aren't. From the provision of manure to giving meat down to being work animals, humans around 10,000 years ago, they have served us well. Kingdom: Animalia Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae Subfamily: Bovinae Genus: Bos
Species: B. Taurus Binomial Name: Bos Taurus Height: 5ft to 6ft Weight: 88 to 1,760 pounds Venom/Poison: No Habitat: Forest, grasslands Range: Worldwide Diet: Herbivore Life span: 12 to 20 years Gestation Period: 279 to 287 days Conservation status: Domesticated Though they seem slow because of their physique, cows are fast. Their
average speed is 40km/h, which surpasses a donkey, a sheep, and even that of an average human. They can't maintain the speed for long, but given that their rate is close to that of Usain Bolt, they should not be underestimated in this aspect. Besides their size, people don't realize they are fast because these mammals don't always run. They only do
so if they're startled or threatened. On a normal day, cows prefer walking. Cows differ in size, but they are big, with a weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and weight that falls between 88 and 1,760 pounds. A big cow named Knickers is famous for being as tall as Michael Jordan and Michael Jord
Cows eat as much as 8 hours a day and will need more than 100 liters of water each day. This is why herders keep them outside, where there would be enough water to drink and green grass to feed on. Because of how beneficial cows are, people have many positive ideas about them, some bordering on the sacred. They are considered as mothers in
the Hindu religion, making it forbidden to kill one. Other religions that consider cows sacred include Buddhism and Jainism. Another underrated quality of a cow is its intelligence, which stems from another misconception about its size. Because they're big, they aren't considered intelligent. That can't be further from the truth. These animals are
intelligent, with the ability to solve problems and remember faces. Going by the results of this study, they might even be smarter than dogs. Closely tied to their intelligence is the ability to feel more complex emotions than we give them credit for. Cows develop friendships, interact with themselves, are scared of death, recognize people who treated
them well or badly and can keep grudges against those around them. Also called cattle as a group, cows are common farm animals—like hooves, tails, and a herbivorous diet—but have their unique appearance. Amongst
themselves, there are also differences in looks. Cows don't have the same colors, sizes, and shapes. The breed determines to a large extent, how an individual will turn out to be. Take the size as an example. The average cow is expected to weigh up to 1,500 pounds, a few sizes short of a small car. Some breeds are bigger than the average; others are
smaller. The Chianina is over 3,700 pounds while the Dexter is at 750. Some cow breeds have short hair; others grow longer. The colors and patterns vary too. The common pattern is known as the Holstein style, where the black-and-white becomes
reddish brown. Some like the Angus, are black from head to tail, and there are many other color combinations. Generally, all cows have horns. The length may vary based on breed and gender, but it is consistent amongst these mammals. The only ones you'll see without horns are those that were dehorned, usually at a young age. You'll find cows on
all continents except Antarctica. As long as there are farmlands in a particular region, you'll see them. In the United States, they aren't common in Urban areas but can be found in large quantities in rural environments. The cattle breed common in one continent may not be common in another continent, so geography has a role to play in what breed
you may find where you live. In Europe, the Americas, Australia, and the temperate regions of Asia, the Taurine cattle is common. In Sub-saharan Africa, you'll find the Sanga cattle. The Zebus cattle are located in tropical Asia.
environment, and some species can survive in a colder region. The best places to rear these animals are habitats with a wide space, such as a plain or even a mountain. Cows are solely herbivorous, and there is no meat eater amongst these mammals. They eat only grasses and other plants. In the food chain, these folks are considered prey. As we'll
see in the course of this article, they have many threats. Cows are ruminant animals, having a stomach with four compartments that all come into play during the digestive process. These compartments are: The rumen (also called the paunch) The omasum (Manyplies) The abomasum (True stomach) The way they eat
differs from how humans and other non-ruminant animals eat. While we chew our foods well before introducing them to the digestive system, cows take the grasses unchewed. This way, it can eat as much as possible. Later on, it requiritates the meal and chews it correctly for proper digestion. The requiritated meal is called the cud. Most farmers
use artificial processes to breed their cows. They achieve this by implanting sperm. This is done to prevent genetic problems. However, these animals can also reproduce naturally. The choice is usually made by the breeders as each method has its advantages. Females stay pregnant for nine months, just like humans do. After nine
months, they give birth to a live calf. As viviparous mammals, they don't lay eggs. They often give birth to one calf at a time. The close parallels between humans and cows don't stop at the 9-month pregnancy. Females nurse their calves become adults
at one or two years, and at that point, they can give birth. The life expectancy of these animals is long, getting to 20 years. However, because they are also bred for their meat, cows don't live to old age. After a few years of serving as farm animals, most end up in an abattoir. In this regard, cows are fortunate to have been domesticated. Most farms
where they are kept are usually guarded, especially at night when predators may prowl around. However, this doesn't mean they don't have predators. As natural prey, they could become dinner for animals like coyotes, dogs, and bobcats. Dogs are the biggest predators, followed by cunning-looking coyotes. Predators aren't their worst enemies,
however. These animals are threatened more by diseases and human activities. Most diseases are infectious, and because cows are foot and mouth diseases and mad cow diseases. As for human activities, remember that
many people breed cows to eat them. Some people do this indiscriminately, and there have been many complaints of cruelty, such as this one. Cows are very social animals, moving in herds and keeping close interactions with themselves. They vocalize a lot, using their 'moos' to communicate with each other about food found or to signal danger.
Their intelligence and complex emotions come into play in their behavior. Cows can learn, keep an event in memory, solve problems, and recognize a particular individual and even be affected by their welfare. They also show different
personalities, ranging from shy to boisterous, and they can even keep grudges. Emotions even affect the production of milk. Amongst the herd, dominant and subordinate behavior occurs. However, the way they express their dominant trait differs from other animals with this tendency. Cows don't have bloody fights, but their conflicts are usually
settled in non-aggressive terms. This reduces the chances of injury. The dominant behavior can be age-based or gender-based. Older ones exhibit this behavior towards younger ones, and bull. Before determining the gender
differences, we need to clarify these terms: The cow is a female that has given birth to at least one calf. Though the word is used for breeding. This male remains intact, which means he hasn't been castrated. A heifer is a young female that hasn't given birth yet. A
steer is a young male that was castrated before it got to its sexual maturity. A stag was also castrated but after its sexual maturity. The simplest way to differentiate a bull from a cow is to look down. Cows have udders that the calf can get milk from. However, bulls have no udders. In its place, they have testicles. The castrated steer and stag have no
testicles, which immediately separates them from the bull. They might also be less gregarious. The difference between 1 and 2 years is still a heifer as she has not reproduced. Any female with at least a calf is a cow. When unperturbed, cows are relatively safe. However, both bulls and
female cows can be dangerous. Most people tend to be more scared of bulls because of what we see in movies. However, cows with little calves are more dangerous, as this study asserts. Cows experience complex emotions, not just the basic feelings of stress and contentment. They can feel love, excitement, sadness, and even fear, as the case may be.
While they do not seem to show romantic affection for the opposite gender as humans do, they bond with members of their herds and can even make friends. On an estimate, there is one cow for every seven humans on earth. While there's no precise number, as more calves are birthed constantly, the population is said to be over 1.4 billion.
Technically, the term 'cow' refers to female bovines. However, the term is now used as a general word for cattle, regardless of gender. Cows were domesticated from wild cattle called aurochs, but except in very rare cases, modern ones aren't wild. They are bred mainly on farms for various reasons. The stereotype we have about these farm animals
does them no justice. Cows aren't dumb shallow animals only fit for milking and beef. They are intelligent mammals with a complex range of emotions that help them bond with others and survive. They have a lot of unique traits that help them stand out, and whether you're a meat eater or yegan, you'd agree that they should be treated with kindness.
Cattle (commonly called cows), are among humankind's most important domesticated animals. They are even-toed ungulates or hoofed mammals, of the species Bos taurus of the family Bovidae, or bovids. Through history, they have had a tremendous effect on human culture, economy, and religion. Cattle were originally identified by Carolus Linnaeus
as three separate species. These were Bos taurus, the European cattle, including similar types from Africa and Asia; Bos indicus, the Zebu or humped cattle found in India; and the extinct Bos primigenius, the aurochs are considered ancestral to both Zebu and European cattle. More recently these three have been grouped as subspecies
under one species: Bos taurus; although some have suggested using the names Bos primigenius taurus, Bos primigenius indicus, and Bos primigenius terminology. The word "cattle" did not originate as a name for this group of bovine animals. It
derives from the Latin caput ("head"), and thus originally meant "unit of livestock" or "one head." The word is closely related to "chattel" (a unit of property) and to "capital" in the sense of "property." Older English sources, such as the King James Version of the Bible, refer to livestock in general as "cattle," and cattle as "kine" (which comes from the
same English stem as cow). Other species of the genus Bos are also often called a bull. Young cattle are called a bull ca
a heifer (pronounced "heffer"). A young female that has had only one calf is sometimes called a "first-calf heifer." In the United States, male cattle bred for meat are castrated unless needed for breeding. The castrated unless needed for breeding. The castrated unless had only one calf is sometimes called a "first-calf heifer." In the United States, male cattle bred for meat are castrated unless needed for breeding.
with the related wild musk ox. A male is called a stag if it is castrated as an adult. The adjective applying to cattle is bovine. The term cattle is not a plural, but a mass noun. Thus, one may refer to some cattle, but not three cattle is not a plural, but a mass noun. Thus, one may refer to some cattle is not a plural, but a mass noun.
(though "catron" is occasionally seen as a half-serious proposal). Strictly speaking, the singular noun for the domestic bovines is shown in place names such as Oxford. But "ox" is now rarely used in this general sense. Today "cow" is frequently
used incorrectly as a gender-neutral term, although it is meant to be used solely to mean females (females of other animals, such as whales or elephants, are also called cows). To refer to a specific number of these animals without specifying their gender, it must be stated as (for example) ten head of cattle. Some Australian, Canadian, New Zealand,
and Scottish farmers use the term cattlebeast or simply "beast." Obsolete terms for cattle include neat (horned oxen, from which "neatsfoot oil" is derived), beef (young ox), and beefing (young animal fit for slaughtering). In common use, the term oxen does not signify a unique bovine, but rather large and heavy set breeds of Bos taurus cattle trained
as draft animals. Often they are adult castrated males. The meat of cattle industry in parts of the United States, the older term beef (plural beeves) is still used to refer to an animal of either gender. Cows of
certain breeds that are kept for the milk they give are called dairy cows. Taxonomy and cattle relatives Cattle belong to the Bovidae family. There are about 140 species of bovids, including buffalo, bison, antelopes, gazelles, and both wild and domesticated sheep, goats, and water buffalo. Cattle belong to the Bovidae family. There are about 140 species of bovids, including buffalo, bison, antelopes, gazelles, and both wild and domesticated sheep, goats, and water buffalo. Cattle belong to the Bovidae family.
This includes a diverse group of about 24 species of medium-sized to large ungulates, including bison, the water buffalo, the yak, and the four-horned antelopes. General characteristics include a cloven hoof and usually at least one of the sexes of a species having a true horn. Very closely related to cattle are the other members of the
genus Bos. The yak, Bos grunniens, is native to the Himalaya Mountains of central Asia. Yaks are a very important domestic animal to the people of the area. They are also found wild. The gaur, Bos frontalis, is native to India and Southeast Asia and the
island of Bali, where it has been domesticated and is known as "Bali cattle." The kouprey, Bos sauveli, is very rare and is found only in a small area near the border of Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos. It is not known to have ever been domesticated. All of these species, as well as bison, Bison bison and Bison bonasus, can interbreed with domestic cattle.
Interbreeding with domestic cattle is not known with certainly in the case of the kouprey (Huffman 2006; Clutton-Brock 1999). Biology Cattle, like other bovids, are ruminants. They have a unique digestive system that allows them to digest cellulose and other otherwise unpalatable plant materials with the aid of symbiotic microorganisms living in
their rumen, or first stomach. Cattle eat mainly grasses and leaves. They need to eat about 70 kg (150 lbs) of food every day. They also need water every day and are dependent on a ready water supply. Like most bovids, both male and female cattle have two horns on their heads, which are used in fights between individual cattle as well as to fight off
predators; modern hornless breeds are an exception to this. Like all mammals, cows produce milk to feed their young. Cows are very protective of their calves. The gestation period for a cow is nine months. A newborn calf weighs approximately 35 to 45 kg. Cattle can live as long as 25 years old. Cattle are social animals, naturally living in groups or
herds. In a herd, individuals support each other by watching for predators, grooming each other, and helping each other find food and water. Among the cows in a herd, there is a system of dominance with one cow that acts as a leader and initiates
movement to new feeding areas (Budiansky 1992). History The extinct aurochs (pronounced ou' roks or our' oks) were found throughout much of Europe about 250,000 years ago in Asia, migrated into the Middle East and further into Asia, and reached Europe about 250,000 years ago. Some were
domesticated about the sixth millennium B.C.E., becoming ancestral to modern cattle. The aurochs were heavily humans and because of this, and because of their range was restricted to Europe, and the last one was killed by a poacher in
Masovia, Poland, in 1627. Pottery bull from Iran, 1250 B.C.E. The auroch was a large animal. Bulls stood about 1.7 meters (5.6 ft) tall at the shoulders and weighed about 900 kg (2,000 lbs). Cows were about 25-percent smaller. Aurochs cows and calves were red, while the bulls were black. Aurochs mainly lived in partly forested areas near rivers or
streams. They formed herds with one dominant male and several females and their young. Other males lived in herds of their own (Nowak 1983). The first evidence of the domestication of cattle comes from the Middle East about 8,000 years ago. Over time, domestic cattle became smaller than their wild ancestors. The most important early use of
cattle was as draft animals, mainly to pull plows. They were also killed for their meat and sometimes as sacrificial animals. They were sometimes milked, but this was secondary in importance (Clutton-Brock 1999). The keeping of cattle became an important measure of
wealth and social status. They were also an important resource for poor farmers. Besides being used as a draft animal and for meat and milk, cattle also provided hide, bones, horns, and fat. Their manure was used as fertilizer, for fuel, and as a building material. John Webster, British expert on animal welfare says: You know, the great thing about the
cow is that she can eat plants we don't, on land the farmer might not own, and convert milk into cash for the farmer sound (PBS 2004). Different breeds of
cattle came into being, mainly depending on environmental conditions in different locations. The Egyptian Longhorn was one of the first distinct breeds to develop and is pictured in the pyramids, and may be among the ancestors of modern African cattle. The Zebu breed, also called Braman, developed in India. Zebus have a greater resistance to heat
and insects than other breeds. Cattle were brought to North America by the Spanish in the 1500s; from them developed the Texas Longhorn'. In the 1700s and 1800s, serious effort began to be made to improve the breeds of cattle by selection and cross-breeding. Modern cattle breeds are mostly specialized to provide milk or meat and are much more
productive than those of earlier times. Among the most common modern cattle breeds are the Holstein-Friesian and the Jersey for milk, and the Angus and Hereford for meat (OSU 2006). Cattle have appeared in art from prehistoric times. Cattle have appeared in art from prehistoric times. Among the most common modern cattle breeds are the Holstein-Friesian and the Jersey for milk, and the Angus and Hereford for meat (OSU 2006). Cattle have appeared in art from prehistoric times.
Turkey from around 8,000 years ago featured auroch horns set into the altar (Clutton-Brock 1999). In ancient Egypt, the cow was associated with the mother goddess Isis, and in ancient Greece, the bull or ox is one of the signs of the zodiac. In Judaism, cattle
were among the animals that were sacrificed, and in Christianity, the ox, or calf, is one of the four beasts in Revelation and is associated with Saint Luke. Sculpture of Jersey cow on Island of Jersey In Hinduism, cattle are considered sacred and are protected from harm. The Indian patriot and religious figure Gandhi explained the Hindu feelings about
cattle this way: "The cow to me means the entire sub-human world, extending man's sympathies beyond his own species. Man through the cow is enjoined to realize his identity with all that lives. Why the ancient rishis selected the cow for apotheosis is obvious to me. The cow in India was the best comparison; she was the giver of plenty. Not only did
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she give milk, but she also made agriculture possible. The cow is a poem of pity; one reads pity in the gentle animal. She is the second mother to millions of mankind. Protection of the lower order of creation is all the more forceful because it is speechless" (Yogananda 1946). Cattle have been used in sport as well. Bull-leaping, a central ritual in Bronze Age Minoan culture, still exists in southwestern France. In Portugal, Spain, and some Latin American countries, bulls are used in the sport of bullfighting, while a similar sport, Jallikattu, is seen in south India. Other sports such as calf roping and bull riding are part of North American rodeos. Present status The world cattle population is estimated to be about 1.3 billion head of cattle, many of which are herded in

traditional ways and serve largely as tokens of their owners' wealth. Europe has about 130 million head of cattle (CT 2006, SC 2006). Cattle today are the basis of a many billion and represented only 23 percent of world beef production (Clay 2004). The production of milk, which is also made into cheese, butter, yogurt, and other dairy products, is comparable in size to beef production and provides an important part of the food supply for much of the world's people. Cattle hides, used for leather to make shoes and clothing, are another important product. In India and other poorer nations, cattle are also important as draft animals as they have been for thousands of years. Newly born Angus calf with mother Concerns have been expressed about the impact of cattle on the environment. Pasture land for cattle grazing is now the largest agricultural land use worldwide. The conversion of natural environments to pasture land has threatened native plants and animals in many places; this is especially a problem in Brazil where large areas of rainforest are being cut down for cattle pasture. Cattle naturally produce methane gas though their digestive process and, because of their large numbers, this is thought to contribute to the process of global warming. Cattle keeping also can contribute to water pollution, air pollution, air pollution, and soil degradation (Clay 2004). Feral cattle, domestic cattle which have returned to the wild, are also an environmental problem in many places (ISSG 2005). A large part of the grains, legumes, and other energy sources. It has sometimes been asked if it would benefit humanity more if the cattle population was less and more of these resources were used to feed people directly (Clay 2004). ReferencesISBN links support NWE through referral fees Bhattacharya, S. 2003. "Cattle Ownership Makes It a Man's World." Newscientist.com. Retrieved December 26, 2006. Cattle Today (CT). 2006. Website. "Breeds of Cattle." Cattle Today. Retrieved December 26, 2006. Under the Environment: A Commodity-by-Commodity Guide to Impacts and Practices. Washington, DC: Island Press. ISBN 1559633700 Clutton-Brock, J. 1999. A Natural History of Domesticated Mammals. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521634954 Huffman, B. 2006. "The Ultimate Ungulate Page." Ultimate Ungulate. Retrieved December 26, 2006. Invasive Species Database. Nowak, R. M., and J. L. Paradiso. 1983. Walker's Mammals of the World. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 0801825253 Oklahoma State University (OSU). 2006. "Breeds of Cattle." Retrieved January 5, 2007. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). 2007. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). 2007. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). 2007. Voelker, W. 1986. The Natural History of Living Mammals. Medford, NJ: Plexus Publishing. ISBN 0937548081 Yogananda, P. 1946. The Autobiography of a Yogi. Los Angeles: Self-Realization Fellowship. ISBN 0876120834

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