A COW'S LIFE
COWS ARE COOL! DID YOU KNOW ... ?

Cows have unique personalities and a wide range of emotions. Like humans, they can love and feel pain, they like to play games, they can hold grudges, and they have distinct likes and dislikes.

Cows often form strong lifelong friendships with one another, sometimes choosing their buddies the same day that they are born!

Mother cows are very devoted to and protective of their children. They lick and groom their babies and even take turns babysitting for each other!

Mother cows have been known to walk for miles looking for a lost baby.

Although cows weigh 1,000 pounds or more, they often jump fences!

Cows are smart! They can see color and tell people apart by their shapes and the colors that they wear.

Let’s see, Adjun is the tall one in blue, and Kim is the short one in red.

If you are nice to them, cows are friendly — but it takes only one bad experience with just one person for them not to trust anyone for a long time.
HI, GABE. HI, ZACH.

HEY, JAN, WHAT’S UP?

NOT MUCH—JUST LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING SOME NEW SCHOOL CLOTHES!

AND I NEED TO BUY A NEW JACKET!

NE, TOO. I NEED TO GET SOME NEW SHOES.

HEY, GUYS, DO YOU THINK THIS LOOKS GOOD ON ME?

ZACH! THAT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU ONLY IF YOU WERE A COW!

THAT’S FUNNY!

NO, I MEAN IT. ONLY COWS SHOULD WEAR COWS’ SKIN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT’S MADE OF LEATHER, AND LEATHER IS REALLY JUST ANIMAL SKIN.
Yeah — it really is gross! Millions of animals are killed for their skin every year and end up as shoes, jackets, belts, bags, and wallets.

I never thought about it that way. That’s horrible!

Leather is a big business. Most leather comes from cows who are treated badly on giant “factory farms.” Every time you buy leather, you’re making animals suffer.

How can people be so mean to cows?

Go put that jacket back, Zach, and I’ll take you guys to meet a friend of mine who knows all about leather.

Sure!

Sounds great!
HI, JAN! IT’S GOOD TO SEE YOU. WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS?

HI, ELIZABETH. THIS IS ZACH AND GABE.

HI. NICE TO MEET YOU.

WELCOME! BAILEY’S GOING TO BE GLAD TO SEE YOU, JAN!

MOOOOOOO!

WELL, HELLO TO YOU, TOO, BAILEY!
This is your friend?

Yep, he’s my buddy.

I’ve never seen a cow in person before.

He sure looks a lot healthier than he did the last time I saw him.

What do you mean?

Well, Gabe — when Bailey first got here, he was really sick.

His mom was a cow who was being treated like a living milk machine and pumped full of drugs. Once she stopped producing milk for people to drink, she was going to be killed and turned into leather.
THE ONLY TIME SHE WAS EVER HAPPY WAS WHEN SHE HAD BAILEY, BUT THE DAY AFTER HE WAS BORN, HE WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM HER — AND THEY NEVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN.

THE PEOPLE AT THE FACTORY FARM DIDN’T WANT BAILEY TO GROW UP BIG, STRONG, AND HEALTHY. ALL THEY CARED ABOUT WAS TURNING HIM INTO A TYPE OF MEAT CALLED “veal” AND USING HIS SKIN FOR LEATHER.

THEY WANTED HIS FLESH TO BE PALE AND HIS MUSCLES WEAK, SO THEY CHAINED HIM INSIDE A DARK CRATE THAT WAS BARELY ANY BIGGER THAN HIS BODY AND FED HIM LIQUIDS THAT DIDN’T HAVE ENOUGH NUTRIENTS IN THEM.
All Bailey did was lie in the dark all day and night feeling scared, lonely, and sick. He ached for freedom and exercise, but he never even got to feel the sun on his back.

The first time he ever saw the sun was when they crammed him and his fellow calves into a truck when he was just 5 months old.

The calves traveled for a long time in the cold, and by the time the truck stopped, some calves had fallen over and been stepped on by mistake by the others. Bailey was so tired, weak, and hurt from being stepped on that he couldn’t even stand up.

All the calves were scared and didn’t want to get off the truck, so workers poked them with electric prods that made them cry out in pain.

Since Bailey couldn’t walk by himself, they dragged him out of the truck and left him in a nearby field.
LUCKILY, SOME KIND PEOPLE FOUND HIM AND BROUGHT HIM HERE, WHERE WE NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH.

NOW HE CAN GRAZE IN A PASTURE ALL DAY AND PLAY IN THE SUN WITH HIS FRIEND JIMMY.

HI, JIMMY—HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS TAIL? IT’S BEEN CUT OFF!

ON FACTORY FARMS, WORKERS SOMETIMES CUT THE HORNS AND TAILS OFF COWS LIKE JIMMY. THEY’RE ALSO BRANDED, WHICH CAUSES THIRD-DEGREE BURNS!

THAT SOUNDS PAINFUL!

IT SURE IS—AND IT’S OFTEN DONE WITHOUT PAINKILLERS.

THAT’S MEAN. I THOUGHT COWS ON BIG FARMS WERE HAPPY AND PEOPLE TREATED THEM NICELY.

THAT ONLY HAPPENS IN STORYBOOKS. A COW’S LIFE ON A FACTORY FARM IS MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE LIFE THAT COWS WOULD CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES.
NATURE’S WAY

Calves have loving mothers who nurse them and stay close to them their entire lives.

Cows love to eat lots of fresh green grass.

When they are allowed to live naturally, cows can live as long as 25 years.

Happy birthday, Bessie cow. Toot!

THE FACTORY FARM WAY

Calves are taken from their mothers—who never see them again.

Farmers feed them grain and other fillers—even sawdust or ground-up animals—that have drugs and bug killers in them.

But on factory farms, cows live only a few years before they are killed and turned into a pair of shoes or a belt.

Happy birthday! Ick!
That’s awful! Are all leather products made from cows?

Nope. Leather comes from pigs, goats, sheep, and alligators. Some leather from China is even made from cats and dogs like my friends Clara and Donovan here!

Yuck! If I wear leather, I could be wearing cat or dog skin?

Yep. If you buy leather, you never know what type of animal it comes from.

I don’t want to hurt animals, but don’t we need leather?

No way! There’re lots of great options. Just check out my shoes—they’re made of canvas.

Lots of companies, like Nike, Converse, Vans, Toms shoes, Adidas, Crocs, and Keds, all offer cool non-leather products.

That’s right. You don’t have to look any further than your local mall to find stores that carry all kinds of shoes, bags, belts, and clothes made from cotton, linen, ramie, and synthetic materials. Many products look like leather but aren’t. Just make sure the label says, “All Man-Made Materials” or “Synthetic.”
Isn't leather better for the environment than synthetics?

Not at all. Leather is awful for the environment! Poisonous chemicals used to turn animal skin into leather hurt the earth and make the people who live close to where the leather is made really sick—sometimes even causing them to get cancer.

Leather is bad for animals and for people!

I'm never going to buy leather again!

Me, neither!

MoOoO!

Ha ha ha!

Bailey likes the sound of that!

Come on, kids. I'll make some veggie burgers for lunch, and then I'll drive you back to the mall—you've got some cruelty-free school shopping to do!

Yeah!
Can you help Mama Cow find her little lost calf? She needs your help to avoid dangerous places, such as the leather company, the factory farm, and the burger joint. Good luck!
DO YOU WANT TO HELP COWS AND OTHER FACTORY-FARMED ANIMALS?

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