Who is the dairy cow?

The dairy cow is a highly sociable animal!

Dairy cows are shy and gentle animals that love to have a strong network of friends. Dairy cows have an average lifespan of 20 years, however in commercial production are slaughtered at around 5.5 years old



What does the dairy cow want?

10 ood diet rich

A good diet, rich in fibre, to effectively ruminate

Shelter for protection

A spacious, quite and

comfortable place to

rest and ruminate

Opportunities to

create bonds with

other cows

Easy access to water

2 tunities to go

Opportunities to go out on pasture to graze & socialise

3

To nurture their young

Space to roam and avoid dominant cows

Calm and gentle handling

How do dairy cows spend their day?



Sleeping

Cows need a very comfortable and spacious place to be able to get quality sleep and rest for at least 14 hours per day

Comfortable floor

for their hooves

Milking

Cows usually are milked twice a day and love a relaxed experience

Ruminating

Cows need to re-chew their food to digest it.

They need a quiet, comfortable resting place to do this and to ruminate

Grazing

Essential for their health and welfare and a perfect time to socialise

Socialising

Cows have best friends and strong established social networks that last a lifetime

Grooming

Mutual grooming increases group cohesion and self grooming increases comfort

What do dairy cows think?

Dairy cows are highly intelligent animals and experts in social networking!

They are capable of formulating plans e.g. to escape the pen

They can remember up to 70 other cows

They dream too!

They are aware of others' emotions e.g. by eating less if their companion is stressed

They can recognise their human handlers by their face

They show excitement when they solve a problem

They play with their young when they are only a few days old

They have best friends for life



How can we provide dairy cows with a good quality of life?



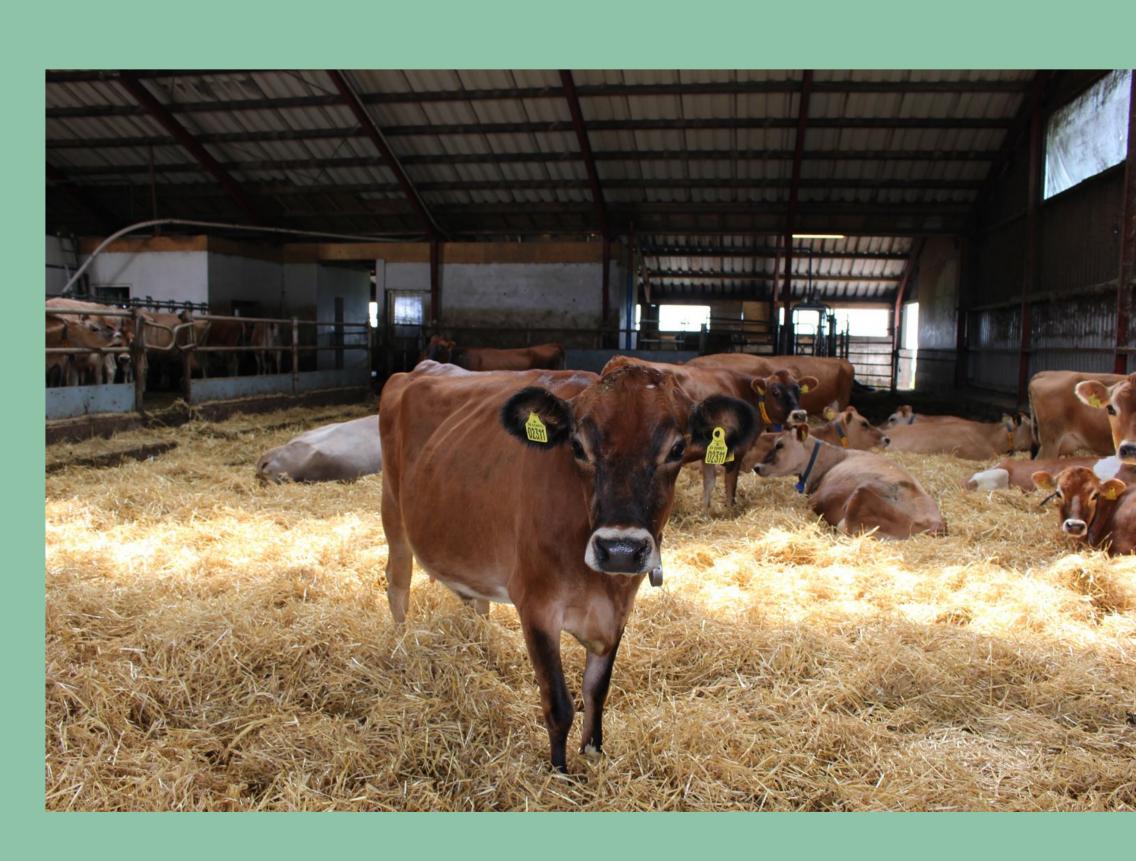
Don't tether or confine them Give them:

- Plenty of opportunities to graze and go outdoors
- Freedom and space to carry out their daily routine
- Brushes to keep their coat in good condition
- Shade and shelter from the extremes of weather

Comfortable and spacious places to rest

- At least one cubicle per cow (or
- 11m²/cow in open yards)
- Provision of comfortable bedding

Ensure floors and tracks are non-slippery and safe





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