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Species sheet - All about dairy cows!



You can't start the day without a drop of milk in your coffee, or wouldn't consider eating pasta without cheese? But what do you really know about dairy cows, their size, weight, life expectancy, cognitive abilities, social behaviour, etc.?

Let us discover in pictures the main characteristics of Annabelle, our dairy cow!

Dairy cow

ID CARD



Scientific name:
Order:
Family:
Life expectancy:
Gestation:

Gestation:
Domestication:

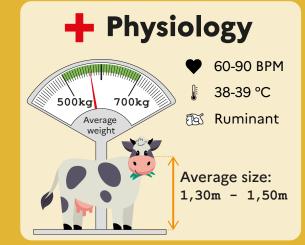
Signature:

BOS TAURUS
MAMMALS
BOVIDAE
20 YEARS
9 MONTHS

8000 YEARS BC.

Annabelle

IDUKANNABELLE<<<<<<<<<<<<<<69280 012299293232BOSTAURUS<<<<<<<<



Social Behaviour



Social cohesion

Cows form a **tight group** with preferential relationships.

Stressed out cows convey their stress to other cows but get soo thed by a calm group.



Dominance

A **dominant animal** will have priority access to food or bedding.

Thus, direct conflict tends to be avoided through posturing.



Leadership

Groups have leaders, followers and independent animals.

Leaders will influence the activities and movements of their group mates.

Cognitive abilities

Cows can **discriminate** between several animal species and different individuals of the same species.

They can also **generalize** their relationship with an individual (e.g., a human) to its entire species.



Typical day

of a dairy cow kept indoors

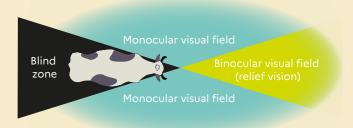


Varies according to housing type, farm management, weather, age and cattle welfare

Sensory abilities

View

Cows' visual field is panoramic (300° vision).





They are short-sighted, their near vision is clear and their **far vision is**

Regarding colors, they effectively distinguish **red**, **yellow** and **orange** but poorly distinguish **blue**, **gray** and **green**.

Cows have a very good perception of movement.



But they **adapt slowly** to light changes (~3 min).

Hearing

Cows are **very sensitive to high-pitched sounds**, especially shrill and squeaky sounds. However, they are less sensitive to low-pitched sounds.



The bovine auricular pavilion can turn in any direction, allowing them to localize sounds.

Smell

They have a **very fine sense of smell**, which they use for **communication** (via pheromones) and **exploration** (recognition of fellow animals, the breeder, sexual interactions...).

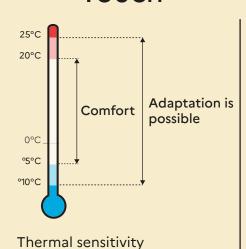
Taste

Cows are **able to identify the 5 primary tastes** (sweet, salty, bitter, sour, umami).

They are **attracted to sweet and salty foods** and are indifferent to bitter and acidic foods.

Touch





Touch is a highly developed sense with touch receptors and the ability to feel pain all over the body.

Temperature perception depends on humidity and wind speed.





