

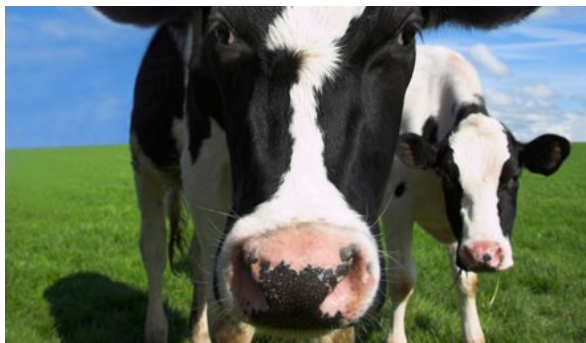
While these calves are now kept outdoors, they continue to be separated from their mothers, not allowed to suckle, and confined to stalls where they are unable to touch other calves for at least the first few weeks of their lives.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cows are highly intelligent and friendly animals who can form long-lasting, deep bonds of friendship with other cows and even their human caregivers. Cows have extremely complex social groups and tend to choose the herd leaders for their intelligence, experience, and good social skills.

Much like humans, cows mourn the deaths of those they love. They even shed tears over the loss of friends who are separated from them. The bond between a mother cow and her calf is particularly strong and cows are widely known to cry out for their calves if they go missing.

Cows are smart and sophisticated animals who can even understand cause-and-effect relationships. Not only do cows swiftly figure out solutions to problems, they find the challenge exciting.



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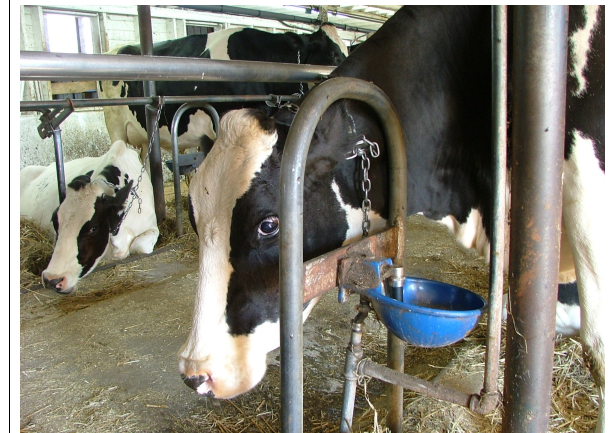


Dairy Cows

In the push for increasing profits, dairy cows have become an example of how basic welfare can become compromised for economic reasons.

Cows produce milk for the same reason that humans do—to nourish their young—but calves born on dairy farms are taken from their mothers shortly after birth and fed milk replacers so that humans can have the milk instead.^[1,2] In order to keep a steady supply of milk, the cows are repeatedly impregnated. Several times a day, dairy cows are hooked by their udders to electronic milking machines that can cause the cows to suffer electrical shocks, painful lesions, and mastitis.

Nearly 75% of Canada's 1.4 million dairy cows spend their lives standing on concrete, chained at the neck^[3,4]. Others are crammed into massive mud lots.



75% of dairy cows in Canada spend their lives chained in concrete stalls.



Although cows would naturally make only enough milk to meet the needs of their calves (around 7 kilograms a day), genetic manipulation has been used to force each cow to now produce more than 9,700 kg of milk a year (an average of 27 kilograms a day).^[5] All of this selective breeding has had devastating effects on the cows themselves.

Today, a milking cow can only be kept for three to five years. After this time, her body becomes so calcium-depleted and her body so emaciated that it is no longer cost effective to keep her. She becomes what industry calls a “cull” or “spent” dairy cow.



The dairy industry is responsible for the highest frequency of “downer” animals (animals too sick, diseased or injured to stand).

The cull cows CETFA inspectors see at livestock markets and slaughterhouses in Canada have been heartbreaking. The average dairy cow we see is lame, emaciated and weak. Lameness has many causes including sole ulceration, laminitis, and hoof rot from being made to stand on concrete floors in their own excrement their entire lives.^[6] Some cows have internal disorders such as twisted stomachs, torn udder ligaments, pneumonia, or acute or chronic mastitis (a painful bacterial infection of their

teats that causes them to expel pus along with their milk).

Others are so injured or diseased that they are what industry calls “downers”. Downers are unable to stand on their own. They become non-ambulatory for a number of reasons: broken or dislocated hips, broken leg bones, ulcerated or infected hooves, or severe exhaustion.

Cows have a natural lifespan of about 25 years and can produce milk for eight or nine years, but the stress caused by factory farm conditions leads to illnesses and diseases that render cows worthless to the dairy industry by the time they are four or five years old, at which time they are sent to the slaughterhouse.^[5,6]



Injuries and infections often go untreated.

Transportation

A dairy cow’s ride to the slaughterhouse can be a long and grueling one. Federal transport regulations in Canada allow cows to be transported without food, water or a rest for a shocking 36 hours.

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s own records, spent dairy cows spend on average three weeks in transit between the point of sale at auction to arrival at the slaughterhouse.^[7]

Veal Calves

Genetically, a cow’s suffering does not end with her. Her male calves, who would otherwise be profit-eaters, become profit-makers by being processed into veal. Veal calves generally spend their lives alone, in crates and sometimes chained at the neck.^[8,9] The confinement is so extreme that they cannot even turn around or lie down comfortably.^[10] They are typically provided with limited iron, which leaves them in a state close to anemia to ensure their flesh remains pink and tender. Veal calves also suffer from ulcers, diarrhea, pneumonia, and lameness.^[11,12] After three to 24 weeks of this deprivation, they are trucked to the slaughterhouse and butchered.



Veal calves are chained by their necks in tiny crates & fed an anemia-inducing diet.

In an effort to counter the negative publicity, the veal industry has created “red veal”.