



# All about **Cattle**

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# Cattle

## Introduction

Cattle were brought to the United States by the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower. Today, there are two main classifications of cattle: marketing and breeding. In addition to these, there are a number of different breeds such as Angus, Hereford, Limousin, Shorthorn, and Simmental. Whether you are looking for a cow for show, for breeding, or as a pet, you will find the perfect one for you if you look long enough and in the right places.

## General Description

Cattle have certain characteristics that need to be observed to be considered a good head of cattle. These characteristics are:

- Body composition – should be muscular with little amount of fat present.
- Frame size – their overall skeletal height should be in close relationship with their age.
- Structural correctness – cows that have correct structure can handle pasture living better and will live longer since they won't be prone to physical disabilities.
- Sex characteristics – females have heads that are long and sharp at the poll. The male's head is long and broader between the eyes.
- Balance – a cow's body parts should be balanced on each side of the cow (e.g., shoulders should be even in height on both sides).



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## Selecting Your Cattle

When you begin shopping for a new cow, you need to make sure that breed, size and quality are all taken into consideration. You also want to make sure that the price you pay is not too high for the animal. As with any other animal, a cow is likely to have a certain disposition. You need to make sure of the cow's disposition and what you are going to use the cow for when shopping for them.

### A Few Words about Breeders

When purchasing or obtaining a cow, you should make sure that the animal is free of disease and has been well-taken cared of, especially if the animal is to be exhibited. Also, if you are putting the cow in with other animals, you should make sure that your new addition does not have any disease that might spread to the rest of the herd. Buying a head of cattle from a registered breeder is the safest way to get an animal that is healthy and fairly well-taken cared of. Breeders take the time to have the animals tested. They have them treated if signs of infection do appear, and they make sure that the rest of the herd is not contaminated.

### A Few Words about Auctions

Buying a cow from an auction or auction house is a practice that is looked down upon by many people. Auction houses do not require that animals be tested; therefore, you run the risk of taking home cattle that can have any disease possible. By the time the signs show up, the rest of your herd could have been infected already. Auction houses are not recommended places to buy an animal but even if it is usually the cheapest.



You'll need these basics before your new Cow comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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## Preparing for your Cattle

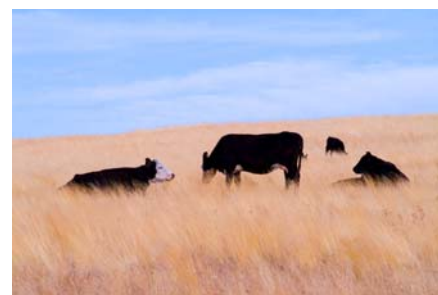
When bringing the cow home, you should make sure that everything is set up before it arrives. This is very important since a cow can become spooked very easily. The first thing you want to make sure you have is an adequate area to house it. The housing area needs to be dry and free of drafts. In the housing area, the cow needs both a sleeping area and an exercise area. You also need to fence the area where the cow will be housed, not only to keep him in but to keep other animals out.

Other items you will need when bringing the cattle/cow home are feeds and water. In addition to the feed, the cattle also should have some hay or grass to chew on.

## Care and Feeding

### Cattle Feeding

Cattle must have certain nutrients daily to remain healthy and ensure proper growth. These nutrients include water, minerals, and vitamins. Water must be given at least once a day. It is not uncommon for a cow to drink 20 gallons of water in a single day. Carbohydrates and fat are also essential to a cattle's growth. These nutrients help heifers to produce calves. Proteins help the cow to build muscles, hooves, hair, and tissue, while making them stronger. Minerals also help make the cow stronger. Minerals help to build strong bones and teeth, and to tone muscles. They also need salt in their everyday diet. Most cattle feeds do not contain a normal amount of salt so it's recommended that a salt block be placed in the pen for the cow to lick on.



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## Cattle Health Care

To keep your cattle healthy, you need to make regular observations of the animals and keep an eye out for possible diseases that can affect them. The cows' hooves need to be trimmed on a regular basis. If hooves are not trimmed correctly, a cow could develop posture and walking problems.

## Cattle Containment

Cattle need to have a shelter to go to, especially when the weather turns bad or is very hot. The most common containment for cattle is a building that is dry and draft-free. It needs to be cool in the summer but still allows fresh air and sunlight to come in. Inside the building, there needs to be materials for bedding. These materials can be shavings, newspapers, leaves, or straw. The building that the cow is to sleep in should be 30-40 square feet and each exercise lot should be 400-600 square feet for each head of cattle. The area also needs to be fenced with strong materials to hold the cows as they grow. Gates and doors should be securely locked and easy to open and close.



## Medical Considerations

Cows are a species that can easily carry disease or infection back to the rest of the herd. Diseases in cows sometimes remain incubated for 30-60 days before the first few signs of illness surface. Some of the common problems that cows experience include flies, worms, bloat, diarrhea, foot rot, warts, and ringworm. There are a number of vaccinations that can be given to cattle to help prevent some of these conditions.



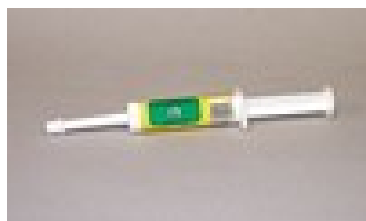
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## Necessary Items

Cattle are animals that do not require a lot of equipment, unless you choose to show them. The most needed requirements of cattle are food and water. They also must have a fenced area and shelter to accommodate them. In addition, feed and medication also need to be kept at hand. You will also need to have a means to transport your animal if you need to travel with it, usually a well-sized trailer will do.



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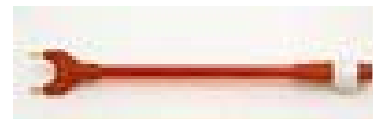
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