

FRIEDA'S FATE FROM DAIRY COW TO RESIDENT OF THE COW RETIREMENT HOME



Frieda was born on the 19th of November 1999. Before being rescued in December 2005, she lived in a dairy farm cubicle house. Frieda had her first calf in February 2002 at the—for a coaw—tender age of twenty-six months after being artificially inseminated. Not long after that, in April 2003, another followed.

Her milk production of about 5000 litres a year was "too low", which meant that Frieda was no longer "profitable" as a dairy cow.

High performance dairy cows are slaughtered after an average of just two to three births. Reasons for this are fertility problems, inflamed udders and orthopaedic ailments, especially hoof disorders.

However Frieda was still "useful" as an "incubator" for an embryo transfer. Her third calf was born in May 2004. She was never allowed to see, lick or suckle any of her children, as calves are generally separated from their mothers directly after birth.

Due to strained pelvic ligaments following the birth of her last calf, Frieda spent a long time lying immobile in a cowshed, which is usually a death sentence for a dairy cow.

After arriving at the Butenland farm, Frieda needed a long time to gain confidence and recover from her physical ordeals. Prematurely aged and emo-

tionally exhausted, she spends most of her time apart from the herd, prefers peace and quiet, enjoys solitude and quietly avoids any goings-on. Her general condition has improved, but she displays physical damage (liver/metabolism/blood formation) as a result of her use as a dairy cow, which recent blood work clearly confirms.

Surprisingly, Frieda is the only cow that enjoys being caressed and massaged all over, despite her reticence. Whenever we can, we pamper her with such a wellness program.

INFO

→ "Embryotransfers" are used to obtain as many offspring as possible from "high performance" animals with a high milk "production", without having to take a "detour" via male offspring with uncertain attributes. In order to take the strain off the "super-animals" or to make use of several reproductive cycles to obtain ova, the embryos are implanted in other female animals. That way, twenty to thirty calves can be obtained, instead of just three or four.



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Cover photo: Trine, born free. Trine first saw the light of day on the Butenland farm. She shows us humans how a cow meets us when she can trust us. Her joie de vivre and natural charm demonstrate something valuable that the world can learn anew. Her example shows us what a cow's life really is like. Trine helps to develop creative concepts for a new human-cow relationship.

DONATION ACCOUNT

Stiftung Hof Butenland
Bank: Raiffeisenbank Butjadingen
IBAN: DE02280682180003727300
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tierschutz-stiftung.org
More animal residents at Hof Butenland besides the cows of the cow retirement home:

- Pigs
- Ducks
- Hens
- Geese
- Horses
- Dogs
- Cats



THE NEW COWLTURE

BECAUSE ANIMALS
AREN'T MACHINES



tierschutz-stiftung.org

YOU CAN'T MEASURE HUMANENESS...

Humans are discovering a new relationship to cows. Hardly anyone endorses mass transports and factory farming, but who actually beats new paths? The "Tierschutzstiftung" (= "animal protection foundation") doesn't just theorise. It gives cows who "served" humans by "giving" much more than five thousand litres of milk a year and who by way of "thanks" would normally have been slaughtered, a new lease of life. Instead, the cows can at last lead a different life, protected by humans who aspire to a new more humane culture.

It's all about humaneness in the sense of developing awareness, resulting in showing respect for animals, assuming responsibility and standing side by side with them as fellow creatures. It's also about gaining insights for the future. Those are the foundation's central concerns. How can we coexist with today's "livestock" in a future world?

The foundation has already gathered valuable knowledge. Animals in the new "cowlture" behave differently to what is described in agri-business textbooks.

The Butenland farm. The foundation for a newcoexistence between humans and animals.

Photo: Karin Mück with Trine

- How do cows experience having their newborn children taken away?
- How do cows experience being lethered all their lives, or being dehorned?
- How do cows experience artificial insemination and embryo transfer?
- How do cows experience being transported to abattoirs?
- What kind of life does a cow lead when she is left alone?
- How do cows who had to "give" up to 10,000 litres of milk deal with their fate?
- How old does a cow "normally" get?
- What do new kinds of coexistence between animals and humans look like?

All the cows from "dairy production" display considerably impaired movement patterns, and chronic hoof and joint inflammation. They also display damage to organs, such as blood formation disorders, and liver and metabolic diseases. These analysis results are unfortunately no exception, but quite possibly the rule. This is a further reason to reconsider general, day-to-day "dealings" with those "other" creatures, who were "livestock" up until now.

...BUT YOU CAN PRACTISE IT

THE FOUNDATION. HOW IT ALL BEGAN AND WHAT IT DOES



After farming for many years (first conventionally, then the transition to a Demeter farm), Jan Gerdes knew that the time was ripe for a new kind of respect toward animals. For a new way of thinking. The insight that animals are not machines had already matured. Karin Mück and Jan Gerdes founded the "Tierschutzstiftung Hof Butenland" ("Animal Protection Foundation Hof Butenland Farm"), investing all their funds. Only a foundation can really guarantee a lasting existence for the farm with its special forward-looking purpose. Here animals are given spaces in which to live freely, peacefully and without fear in the company of humans. The experiences made, are valuable for both animals and humans.

The observations and results of the foundation's work are made available to researchers worldwide. The work of the foundation marks a turning point, the goal being to provide a role model and create a new basis for future generations. Every donation strengthens the foundation's work and shapes the future beyond today. It makes a mark. On our culture. On humans and animals.

