# [Highland Cattle](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/highland-cattle/" \o "Highland Cattle) :

Highland cattle (also known as the hairy cow) are an old Scottish breed of [cow](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cow/), bred primarily for their beef. Highland cattle are often bred for cattle shows, and some highland cattle can win many prizes due to the incredible condition of the highland cattle individuals.

The highland cattle are famous for their long haired coats which help the hairy [cows](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cow/) to cope with the harsh conditions of the Scottish Highlands. The highland cattle inhabit areas of Scotland close to the Arctic circle meaning that the highland cattle have adapted to endure the most uncompromising conditions.

Highland cattle originally come from Scotland. Highland cattle can now be found in [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/), North America and [Australia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/), where the highland cattle are all commonly farmed for their meat but some people also use the long hair of the highland cattle.

Highland cattle have adapted to living in such harsh terrains as highland cattle have a large, strong build and a thick double layer of long orange hair. Highland cattle also have two [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) on the tops of their heads which the highland cattle use to dig through thick snow to find the vegetation that lies underneath and the highland cattle also use their [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) in [order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order) to defend themselves from oncoming [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) and other rival highland cattle.

The highland cattle are also extremely adept at foraging for food and the patience and skill of the highland cattle means that the highland cattle can often be found [grazing](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-grazing) on steep, mountainous slopes in the Scottish highlands. Highland cattle are herbivorous [mammals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-mammal) and therefore only eat plant matter, mainly grasses. Highland cattle are also known to eat leaves from low growing trees and shrubs and the highland cattle are also rather partial to the odd flower!

Due to the sheer [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size) of highland cattle, other than [humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) highland cattle have very few natural [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) in their wild [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat). Depending on the [location](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-location) of highland cattle, packs of wolves are one of the main threats to [grazing](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-grazing) highland cattle and those highland cattle inhabiting the plains in North America, are also in fear of being hunted by larger [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) such as [mountain lions](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/mountain-lion/), [cougars](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cougar/) and [bears](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bear/). [Coyotes](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/coyote/) in North America are also a threat to the young and weak highland cattle calves but it is too dangerous for the [coyote](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/coyote/) to hunt a highland cattle calf unless the young highland cattle has been separated from the [group](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group).

# Highland Cattle Facts:

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| [**Kingdom**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom)**:** | Animalia |
| [**Phylum**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum)**:** | Chordata |
| [**Class**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class)**:** | Mammalia |
| [**Order**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order)**:** | Artiodactyla |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Bovidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Bos |
|  | |
| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Bos Taurus |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Herbivore |
| [**Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 0.9-1.1m (3-3.5ft) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 400-1,000kg (882-2,204lbs) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 40km/h (25mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 15-22 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Herd |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Least Concern |
|  | |
| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Tan, Brown, Orange |
| [**Skin Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type)**:** | Hair |
| [**Favourite Food**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food)**:** | Grass |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Mountainous and wet grasslands |
| [**Average Litter Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size)**:** | 1 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Grass, Leaves, Flowers |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Human, Wolf, Coyote |
| [**Special Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Long, thick hair and large, curved horns |