

Meet your Meat: Cows are friends not food

By: Haritha Jupudy
Words: 1,475

“Hello sir, what would you like to order today?” says the waitress in a high-pitched tone. “Um... ahh...let’s see...oh! I’ll take a hamburger- just the simple but full of savoring flavors!” replies the hungry costumer. Every day, this conversation is repeated at least “4.2 million” times only in the United States, meaning that every day, approximately “4.2 million hamburgers” are sold only in the United States, which means many cows—too many to count, are being slaughtered against their will only in the United States (1). If these many cows are being slaughtered and abused only in the United States, how many are dying around the whole world? Why do some human beings treat the innocent cows like this? A cow is just like us, a living being with a soul. It has two eyes, lips, ears and legs just like every other human being. Every cow gives us “thousands of gallons of milk” (2) and “every drop has gone down the throats” (2) of ours. Where would the world be without these sacred cows? They give us everything, from milk to their actual insides. In fact, cows are referred to as the “foster mothers” (3) of our human race because they produce most of the scrumptious, thick, creamy milk most of the people drink not only in America, but all over the globe. From the day the first cow arrived in “America in 1611 at Jamestown Colony”, the cow became widely known and became a necessity for people all around the world (3).

When the cows produce milk for us it may not be a problem but when they are dying for us and get abused during the way...It’s a big problem. The cows are basically treated like ‘use and throw’ replacements. After they stop producing milk, “they are slaughtered, showing that apparently they are useless after they are done producing milk”, which is not true (4). All cows,

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no matter how big or small, skinny or fat deserve the gift of life. They give so much to us and we repay them by snatching their life away from them so rudely- they should die like us, a natural death and still not be used as food; they are just like one of us, how would you feel if after you died, your insides were used for eating? Cows are our friends, so let's treat them that way.

“Dairy Cows are slaughtered at an age of 5, on average” (1). Imagine a young calf, just beginning to see the world and still learning about the necessities of life being milked one day, and then, cut into pieces leaving the earth like a spiritual soul. Also, the treatment that the unlucky calf receives before being sent to the butchery is torture. The calf is usually forcibly taken away from its mother immediately with the mother cow or the calf having no clue about what is occurring. The calves ,and it also unfortunately happens to the male and female cows, become a “meat calf that will spend [it's] entire life (26 weeks) in a wooden box, which is too small for the animal to turn itself around in” (1). This brutal ‘technique’ allows the muscle development to be limited so that the meat will remain tender. The harsh techniques don't need to be exerted to kill a living thing. Instead of torturing the cows and calves, another action can and should be taken. At Conklin Farms, the farmers were just throwing the cows around like they were soccer balls. They were suspected (and they actually did this) of “stabbing cows with pitchforks, hitting the cow's heads with steel bars and crow bars, and basic abuse- punching the head of the baby calves with their mighty fists” (5). Thankfully, the horrible farmers were sent to jail and the few cows that weren't abused before being sent to the slaughter house were saved.

Some slaughter because they think that cows are so unintelligent they don't even deserve a nice death. That statement is not at all true! Cows can hear “lower and higher frequencies better

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than humans and can detect odors up to 5 miles away” (6). Even better than humans, these cows are treated so awfully and given such a bad name that no one would believe that they actually had the brains. These cows are so intelligent but they are being not allowed to show their intelligence because of the farmers killing them and misusing the innocent animals. The calves and cows who each one gives us “200,000 glasses of milk” (7) in one of their lifetimes is being thanked by a brutal death. Imagine you in their shoes, being pushed around before even get slaughtered- like that is preparing you for your bitter death. Being hanged upside down, not knowing what is happening, but knowing one thing, that you will not be able to pass this death. As your thinking of what to do, a knife is placed on your throat and... black. These cows don't deserve to die. They have done no harm to us so why do we harm them? Slaughtering them for our sake is not right; they have the right to only die naturally, and even then they shouldn't be given to use to be eaten. The cows are so intelligent and with future technology, they will be able to make a “change in our future” (9), but they are being stopped because of the immoral abattoir.

The beef we have in a hamburger or even beef jerky is a once living cow that died. A cow is supposed to live for “25 years, but in a farm, it is lucky to live for at least five years” (9). The cows are in a condition that they aren't even allowed to think of what is happening. They are caught in a stance that whenever they are being hanged upside-down and tied with ropes, they realize they can't escape when they should be able to. They give us milk, they give us butter, they give us dairy, but still farmers treat them like miserable slaves and throw them to the slaughterhouse when they are done being used! So many families, yes cow families, are separated and never seen together again. A calf is never able to see her mother again, but sadly she may see her up in cow heaven. The cows should be able to live

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free like us! The hamburger to the plate might look delicious but the background on how the hamburger is made is the cows' insides and a tragic story of a living animal.

The Humane Slaughter Act that was passed in 1958 was and is still a “United States federal law that is designed to protect livestock during slaughter” (8). The Inspection Service inspectors at slaughtering plants are responsible for overseeing the plants and have the complete authority to stop slaughter lines if the cows or any other animals are not taken toward the correct actions. This act was abundantly abused so fortunately on May 13, 2002; President George W. Bush signed the law of ‘Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002’ that included a resolution to the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958. It stated that the resolution should be “fully enforced in all slaughter plants to prevent the suffering of slaughtered animals and allows the Secretary of Agriculture to track violators and report it to Congress” (8). Unfortunately, some violators are still forgiven when they should not be and not only should the government take action but every responsible citizen.

I have already started making plans to create an Animal Rights Association to help not only cows but other animals as well from abuse, mistreat, or any other problems like slaughtering. The Animal Rights Association’s first project is to spread the word of not killing cows and advantages of that action such as “lowering the cholesterol of human beings if eating less red meat (medically proven), the use of the cow waste in fires or the use of cow waste in fertilizers to produce and grow healthy, chemical-free plants” (10). So far, I have succeeded in making my friends and family members either stop eating beef, even I have stopped eating beef, or at least lowering their beef consumption. I made them understand what misery the animals

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face and how they have the right to die naturally. As I start small on my goal of making more cows live to see the world, it makes a huge impact because one less hamburger means one less cow to kill. I plan to make my Animal Rights Association Global and make a change one step at a time starting with the rights of the intelligent, innocent cows. Cows have souls too, they are our friends, not food...the meat we eat has a heartbreaking background story...meet your meat.

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