



與牛相遇怎麼辦？

牛是溫馴動物，當牠遇見你時，牠會害羞避開，或會心存好奇，過來嗅你。你只要安靜守候，或有機會摸一摸那軟軟的牛鼻子。

但千萬不可觸摸小牛，因為總會有母牛在旁看守，不要叫母牛因此擔心而緊張。

我們有時會在窄路上與牛隻相遇，不用害怕，只要自然地慢慢走路，牛隻自會站在一旁，讓你過去。

那些又大又黑的公牛，樣子叫人驚慄。不用慌張，牠是萬分溫馴，不會傷害你的。請緊記，看護母牛和小牛本是公牛的責任，你應該尊敬牠。

HOW TO GREET A COW

Cows are gentle humble creatures. They may be shy and move away, or they may be curious and come and sniff you. Be quiet and patient and you may be able to stroke their velvety noses.

Remember that calves (baby cows) always have an anxious mother so do not try and touch the calf so as not to worry the mother.

Sometimes a cow may be walking toward you on a path. Do not be frightened, just walk slowly and naturally and you will find that the cow will either step aside for you or will quietly let you walk past. Sometimes the big black bulls look scary but do not be frightened. They are gentle too and will not harm you. Remember that their job is to look after their family (cows and calves) so respect them.



牛糞 - 牛糞 - 撲通一聲 - 牛糞落地

散發異味 - 有時難聞

污穢鞋子，更是糟糕 - 小心小心。

說牛糞一無是處？不是不是！

乾的牛糞可以：

- 用作燃料
- 用作飛盤玩耍！

有些國家把牛糞用作：

- 天然殺菌劑
- 與泥漿混和，作地板塗層
- 清潔鍋盆，磨光銅器
- 保護種子，防止害蟲

最好的是，牛糞是極佳的肥田料。

COW DUNG - COW PLOP - COW POO

Smelly – sometimes

Awful on your shoes – always!

Useless – NEVER

When dry it can:

- ~ be burnt as a fuel
- ~ used as a Frisbee!

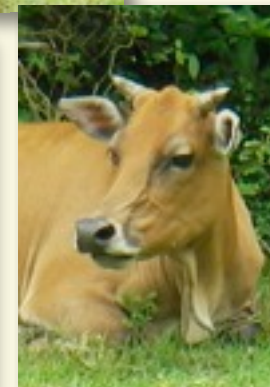
In other countries it is:

- ~ used as a natural antiseptic
- ~ mixed with mud as a floor covering
- ~ used as a pot cleaner and brass polish
- ~ used to protect new seeds from pests

But best of all, it is an excellent fertilizer for gardens.



大嶼山牛群



THE CATTLE OF LANTAU

歷史

以前在大嶼山鄉村，黃牛是十分重要的。

三十年前，香港還要依賴牛隻耕作，開墾山地，種植稻米。

牛糞是最重要的肥料。聖母神樂院也飼養了一些牛隻，供應鮮奶。

今天稻田不再，都已變成小幅、小幅的菜地。神樂院也不再在大嶼山生產牛奶了。

牛隻除了在石壁水壩幫助清理野草，便再沒有其他可見用途了。

今天散落在長沙、塘福、水口、石壁和愉景灣的牛隻約有七十，這些都是昔日一時繁多，作我們耕作夥伴的先祖所遺下的餘民。



HISTORY

Yellow cattle were once a very important part of village life on Lantau. Even up to 30 years ago cattle were needed to plough the upland paddy fields for rice cultivation.

Their droppings (dung) were the most important fertilizer for gardens.

At the Trappist Monastery, cows were kept for providing fresh milk.

These days the cattle are no longer used, and rice cultivation

has been replaced by small vegetable plots.

The Trappist Monastery has long ceased to produce milk on Lantau.

Today's herds at Cheung Sha, Tong Fuk, Shui Hau, Shek Pik and Discovery Bay are a small remnant (some 70 animals) of the once numerous animals that were our valued partners.



一些有趣資料

黃牛是群居動物，有自己的家庭單位。

一隻公牛可能有一至三隻母牛相伴，這些母牛可能正在飼養幾隻小牛。

牛是素食的，只吃草和灌木嫩葉。

黃牛在山上或河間平原出沒，喜歡乾地，這與水牛不同。

黃牛群居，而且溫馴，生性善良，與人接近。

鄉村牛隻數目曾達一時之盛，平均每一個村民便養了一隻牛。但大嶼山今天只剩下約七十隻牛。

以前，看牛是孩童的工作。



INTERESTING FACTS

Yellow cattle live in family groups.

A bull (male) may have one to three cows (female).

His family may have several children (calves).

They are vegetarian, eating grass and young shrubs.

They live on the hills or river plains.

Unlike water buffalo, they prefer dry areas.

Yellow cattle are social and docile animals.

They are easily approached and placid in nature.

Once numerous in villages (up to one cow per villager), the number on Lantau is now around 70.

In the old days it was the children's job to look after the cattle.

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要保護牛隻

今天看見的牛隻，是曾為我們開墾耕地者的後代，但今天變成野生的無「主」孤牛。

有人覺得，牛隻只叫人想起過去的鄉村生活，乏善可陳。也有人認為，牛隻白佔土地，防礙社會發展。

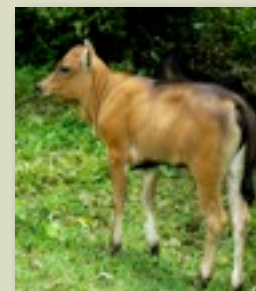
不過，有不少人視這些牛隻十分可貴，牠是我們珍貴的歷史遺照。

牛是人類溫馴的友伴，在這節奏急速的都市應該保存下來。

牛也具有生態價值。牛在矮樹叢林間踏出小徑，透射陽光；牛使野草不恣意蔓生，讓山坡的草原受到保護。

牛糞是極好的肥田料，這是每個熱衷園藝者都知道的。

享受和珍惜我們的牛隻吧。牠與我們和平共處，也讓我們向牠發揮人性的善美。



PROTECT OUR CATTLE

The cattle we see today are the descendants of those who used to work our fields. They have no 'owners' now and are feral (wild). There are some people who see them as an embarrassing reminder of our rural past, and as occupying land which could be developed.

However many people see the cattle as a wonderful reminder of our past, as gentle companions and creatures worth preserving in this high paced urban city.

They also have ecological value, making paths through the undergrowth letting sunlight in, keeping weeds in check, and preserving our upland grasslands. Their dung is an excellent fertilizer as all avid gardeners know.

Enjoy and value the cattle among us. Their presence living peacefully among us, reminds us of our humanity.