

Highlanders are one of the oldest and most distinctive breeds of cattle in the world. Although their exact origins are unknown, archaeologists have so far uncovered evidence of Highland Cattle going back to at least the 6th century. Crofters originally kept highland cattle, the term "fold" for a collection of Highland Cattle dates back to their practice of gathering animals into an open enclosure or fold for protection from predators and rustlers.

Today's Highland Cattle come in a variety of colours ranging from white through to dun, yellow, red, brindle to black and parti-coloured coats. In 2010 a rare silver-dun calf, pictured here, was born at Pollok.

Highlanders have adapted to cope with Scotland's harsh terrain and extreme weather. Instead of a layer of fat to keep them warm, they have thick skin and a double-layered winter coat. This makes their meat well marbled and low in cholesterol with a distinct flavour that makes it the preferred beef of many top chefs. Other fans include the Royal Family, Her Majesty the Queen has her own fold of Highland Cattle on Balmoral Estate.



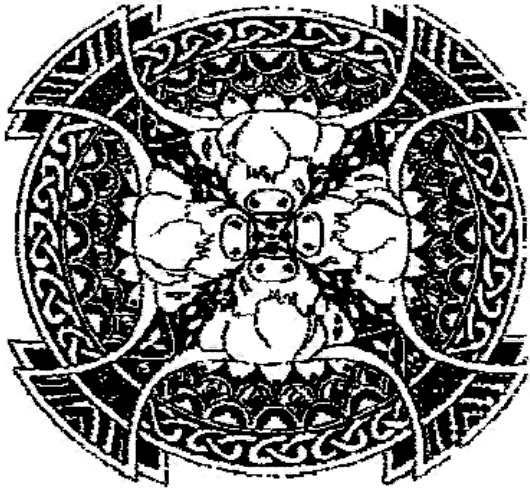
Did you know an independent expert found that Highland Cattle beef is lower in cholesterol than chicken and contains less fat?



Their long fringe or 'dossan' protects their eyes from driving winds, hail, snow and rain. In the summer, Highlanders shed their heavy winter coats keeping their long dossan to shield their eyes from insects and harmful ultraviolet sunrays.



The Pollok Fold



For two centuries, Pollok Estate has produced prize winning Pedigree Highland Cattle. At an early Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland Show held on Glasgow Green in 1826, Sir John Maxwell of Pollok was awarded a medal for two of his Highlanders, a pair of four year old heifers (young females), one with a black coat and the other brindle. Today Glasgow City Council is proud to continue the tradition of attending and regularly picking up prizes at this show, now known as the Royal Highland Show. It is one of the world's top agricultural shows generating £70 million this

year for the Scottish economy.

Pollok's Fold is renowned by breeders throughout the world for its champion blood stock. Our most famous bull is the legendary "Callum of Pollok". In 1973 to improve the quality of Highlanders abroad his semen was exported to Australia where he is now the common ancestor to all Australian and New Zealand "pure bred" Highland Cattle. Almost 40 years on and his semen is still being used by



breeders across the world. To celebrate this last year three of our cows were inseminated with straws from "Callum of Pollok" producing three outstanding new bull calves. One of the calves is pictured above.

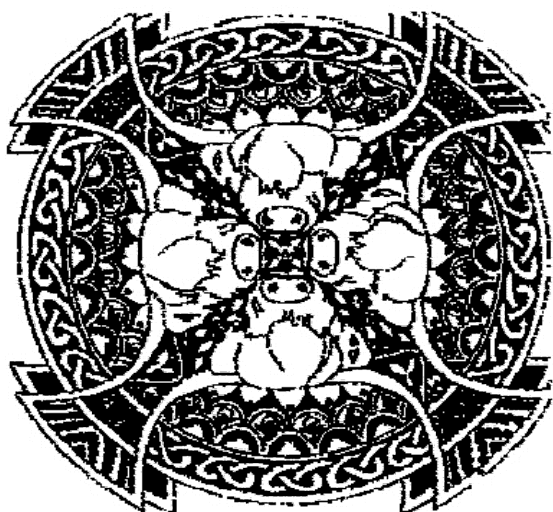
The Pollok Fold is not just about individual animals all our cattle work as a team and in 2009 brought the Highland Cattle Society Show Fold of the Year award home to Glasgow for the third time.

In recent years, the popularity of Highland Cattle has grown as the benefits of their beef to healthy living and grazing for nature conservation are increasingly recognised across the world.

Did you know that last year Glasgow City Council exported home bred Highland Cattle from their Pollok Fold to Germany, France, Italy & Denmark?



Our Ancient Pastures



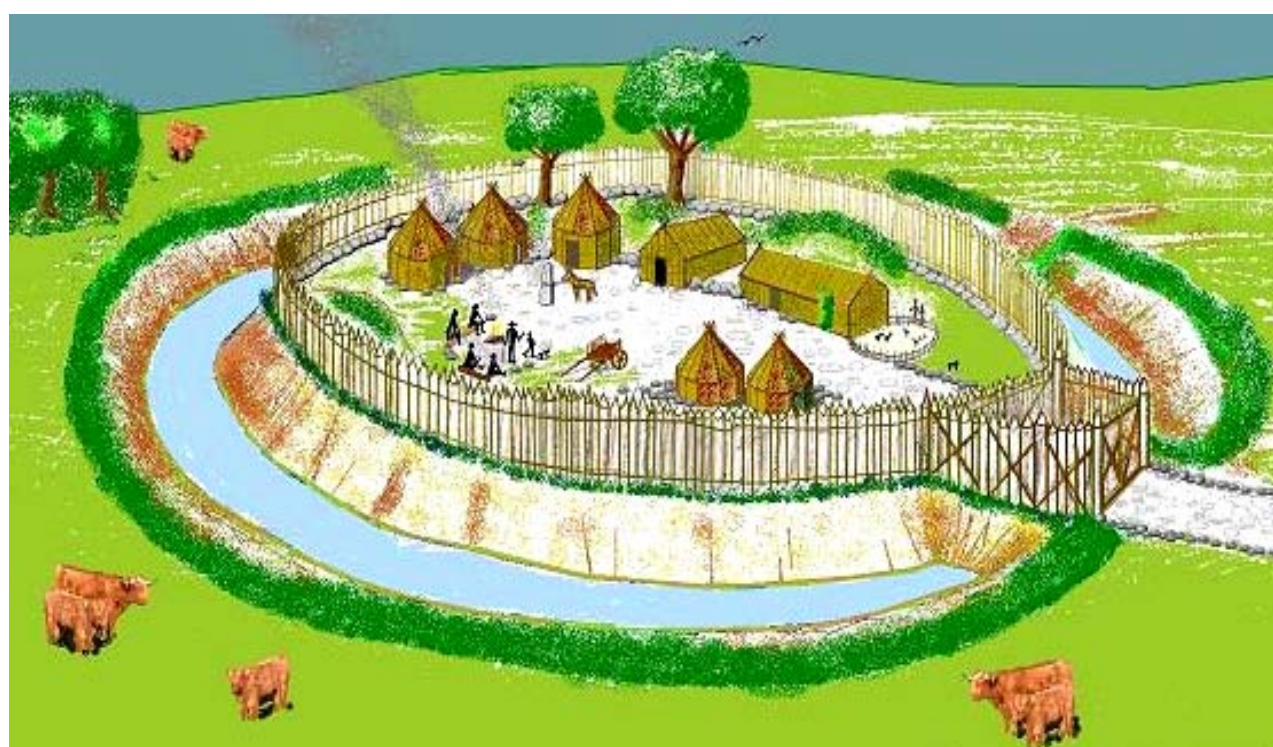
Glasgow's cattle graze over pastureland that has been traditionally farmed for hundreds, probably thousands of years with its own unique ecosystem.

The pastures provide a haven for grassland species of orchids, butterflies, bumblebees and many other pretty little things including the nationally scarce

Mallota cimbiciformis hoverfly. Pollok is the only known breeding site in Scotland for these colourful honeybee mimics. Specimens of the fly and its larvae from Pollok have been added to the entomology collections at both the Hunterian Museum and Glasgow Natural History Museum.



Did you know one cow produces about 4 tons of dung a year, this supplies food to an annual insect population of around a quarter of the cow's own body weight? - *These insects provide a rich source of food for a wide variety of animals such as foxes, shrews, hedgehogs, badgers, bats, frogs, newts and toads and a whole variety of birds.*



Recently, archaeologists uncovered evidence that Pollok's famous Iron Age ring works in North Wood was used as a massive cattle enclosure or fold in medieval times, around the outskirts they discovered a series of pens possibly used for smaller animals.

Our calves



Highland cows make very good mothers, unlike some modern breeds; they can give birth naturally to their calves out in the fields. Their gestation period is around 9 months. Calves are kept with their mothers for around 6 months until they no longer need mum's milk. Female highlanders take three to four years to mature before producing a calf, until then they are known as heifers. In the show ring, Highland Cows are shown with their calf at foot. They are long lived, with many breeding past 18 years.



Our International Highland Cattle Show

The Fold belongs to the people of Glasgow and each year on their behalf Glasgow City Council host the "International Highland Cattle Show" at Pollok Country Park. This unique event gives the citizens of a busy 21st Century metropolis the opportunity to stay in touch with their Cultural and Natural Heritage.



At this year's show, Glasgow played host to the 3rd International Gathering of Highland Cattle Breeders welcoming 175 delegates from 13 countries across the globe. Now well established as the biggest Highland Cattle Show in the UK, competition was very stiff with 35 top highland cattle breeders from all over Britain exhibiting in excess of 100 head of cattle.

To the home crowds' delight local breeders', William & Tom Thomson from Barrhead, cow Bachy 10th of

Woodneuk was crowned Supreme Champion of the show. The Male Champion was Her Majesty the Queen's Cliadhamh Mor of Balmoral, a 20-month-old bull more affectionately known to Her Majesty and the Barmoral staff by his pet name as "grizzly". Rising stars, 13 year old school boy Tom Ward from Sunderland and his 20 month old heifer Julie 21st of Thaggnam took both Reserve and Junior Champion!



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