

## **The Scottish Highland Cow**

Graham Stubbs

The statement is in his eyes, at once sad and independent, the history of the centuries hidden in them, like an old Scottish Clan Chief. Chin raised with a haughty look tells you to back off; he's not dependent upon humans for feed or shelter. His ancestors grazed the Highlands of Scotland since the sixth century. He'll eat and thrive on what other cattle pass by. Affectionately known as a "Hairy Coo" or "Shaggy Coo" in parts of Scotland, his double layers of hair keep him warm in the harshest winter without the need for a thick layer of fat, and without man-made shelter.

He's from the oldest registered breed of cattle in America, with the first herd, or fold, as a group of Highlands is referred to, being established in 1884. His long lashes and forelocks protect his eyes from flying insects, and keep him disease resistant. Despite the long horns and fierce appearance, he's intelligent and, they say, even-tempered.

### **Haiku for a Coo**

Scottish Hairy Coo

Haughty and independent

Old Highland Chieftain

Moo!

