

MEET OUR ANIMALS

Introducing: Leia the Orphan Jersey



Leia was born in November 2016 at Diamond Forest Farm Stay. She was named after Princess Leia from Star Wars. Her mum, Gem, sadly had some complications and didn't survive. This means that little Leia is an orphan. She is currently our youngest cow on the farm. Because Leia is an orphan we had to bottle feed her twice a day.

We decided that we would train Leia while she was very young to get used to having lots of people around her so we included her bottle feeding in with the Daily Animal Feed. Leia has gotten used to lots of people handling her, patting her and talking to her. This makes her a very friendly cow.

Now she is bigger she doesn't need bottle feeding but she is not big enough to go in with the adult cows yet. Sometimes she stays in the paddock with the donkeys and goats so that she can have access to hay. Sometimes we let her out into the dam paddock. She loves it in the dam paddock because she likes to follow people around when they are fishing or canoeing.

Did you know?

- The first few feeds that a calf has from its mum is not actually milk. Rather it is a substance called colostrum that a mother cow produces that has lots of vitamins, minerals and antibodies that help the calf stay healthy.
- When we have an orphan calf we have to go and buy frozen colostrums from the vets before we start feeding them a special milk formula just for cows
- Calves can be weaned (stop drinking their mother's milk) from about 8 weeks of age but most calves would keep drinking their mum's milk forever if we let them.

Our Secret

Because she is so friendly, when Leia is old enough, we are going to train her to be our milking cow. Then we will be able to have nice, fresh, creamy milk for our breakfast and our guests will be able to learn how to milk a cow.