

That's Bull!

A bull is an intact (not castrated) adult male of the species. It's characteristically more muscular and aggressive than the female, the cow. *[unless you're Ferdinand the Bull]*

Part of the human condition, I suppose, is that we use symbolism--in our speech, our writing, logos, fashions, etc. One of the earliest symbols, and one of the longest-lasting, is the bull. Bulls have held a place of significance in human culture since before the beginning of recorded history. They appear in cave paintings estimated to be up to 17,000 years old. The mythic Bull of the Heavens plays a role in the ancient Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh, dating as far back as 2150 BC.

In ancient Minoan society, 'bull-dancing' was an important part of the culture, where bull dancers jumped over the horns of charging bulls. In Greek mythology, the bull is often associated with Poseidon, and Zeus turned himself into a magnificent bull during one of his many adulterous affairs.

The importance of the bull is reflected in its appearance in the zodiac as Taurus, and its numerous appearances in mythology, where it is often associated with fertility. In Hinduism, a bull named Nandi, usually depicted seated, is worshipped as the vehicle of the god Shiva. Symbolically, the bull appears commonly in heraldry, and, in modern times, as a mascot for both amateur and professional sports teams. It's stood for power, strength, courage, stamina, vigor, and so on. And, as a consequence, it's even worked its way into our language: "bull-headed", "bull-necked", "bulldoze", etc.

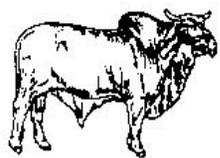
Adult bulls may weigh between 1,100 and 2,200 lb. Most are capable of aggressive behavior and require careful handling to ensure safety of humans and other animals. Those of dairy breeds may be more prone to aggression, while beef breeds are somewhat less aggressive, though beef breeds such as

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the Spanish Fighting Bull and related animals are also noted for aggressive tendencies, which are further encouraged by selective breeding. A common misconception widely repeated in depictions of bull behavior is that the color red angers bulls, inciting them to charge. In fact, like most mammals, cattle are red-green color blind. In bullfighting, it's the movement of the matador's cape, and not the color, which provokes a reaction in the bull.

It's estimated that 42% of all livestock-related fatalities in Canada are a result of bull attacks, and fewer than one in twenty victims of a bull attack survives. Dairy breed bulls are particularly dangerous and unpredictable; the hazards of bull handling are a significant cause of injury and death for dairy farmers in some parts of the United States. The need to move a bull in and out of its pen to cover cows exposes the handler to serious jeopardy of life and limb. Being trampled, jammed against a wall or gored by a bull was one of the most frequent causes of death in the dairy industry prior to 1940. As suggested in one popular farming magazine, "Handle [the bull] with a staff and take no chances. The gentle bull, not the vicious one, most often kills or maims his keeper". [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bull>]

If you're into collecting bull covers, it's usually hard to tell from covers which is a bull, cow, or steer...unless the cover actually says bull (at least from my own experience, since there are some female cattle types that have horns.) [*And that's about the extent of my knowledge about Bull...although some would argue the point*]

Obviously, restaurant covers would be the largest source of these covers.

Chester Crill, CA, had 2,631 Cows/Steers/Bulls as of April 2005.

