

No bull! Scientists 'potty train' cows

Scientists say they have successfully "potty trained" cows to urinate in a designated toilet area as part of a programme aimed at slashing greenhouse gas emissions. The team of New Zealand and German researchers admitted the idea began as a joke but said dealing with cows' nitrogen-rich liquid waste could have genuine long-term climate benefits. "If we could collect 10 or 20% of urinations, it would be sufficient to reduce greenhouse gas emission and nitrate leaching significantly," Auckland University's Douglas Elliffe said. Just like some parents, the researchers used a sweet treat to coax the cows to push through a gate and urinate in a special pen. And it took only 15 days to train the young calves. Some kids take quite a bit longer.