> *Our alpine pastures are essential for both farming and leisure and must therefore be maintained. We want to make people aware that there are certain rules that apply when crossing these areas – for their own safety and for the protection of animals and nature.*

Regional Governor of Tirol
Günther Platter

> *Only thanks to the work of our farmers can our pastures be preserved in their current form. I call on visitors to respect the signs, instructions and rules so that we can all continue to enjoy these pastures together.*

President of the Tirolean Chamber of Agriculture
Josef Hechenberger

Please pay particular attention to the following signs:

Cows, sheep, horses – many different kinds of animals can be found on alpine pastures. They all want to be left alone to graze in peace. This sign indicates that there are animals grazing on this pasture. Please keep a safe distance. Cross the pasture quickly and quietly.

Mother cows have a strong instinct to protect their young from danger. Therefore, please do not stroke or disturb cows and calves. Keep a safe distance at all times. Walk around grazing animals leaving plenty of space, especially if you have a dog with you.

These signs show alternative paths leading around the pasture. Walkers with dogs in particular should take these alternative routes in order to avoid crossing pastures with grazing animals.

A mountain pasture is not a petting zoo!

Be careful when coming into contact with grazing animals. Visitors should be familiar with some basic behaviour patterns of grazing animals in order to avoid dangerous situations.

Herds of cows can be divided into three main categories:

Herds with mother cows
These herds are made up of mother cows and their calves. Mother cows have a strong impulsive instinct to protect their young. If adult males (bulls) are among the herd, please be particularly careful.
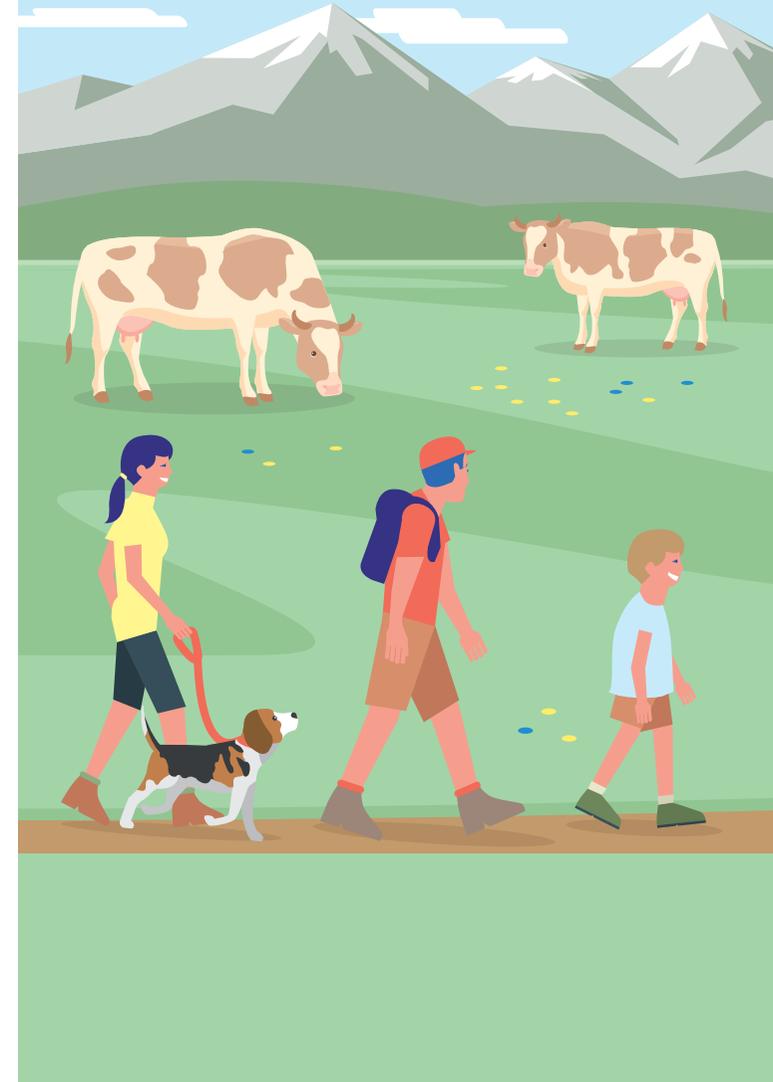
Herds of young cows
Young cows are high-spirited, very active and curious. They are not aggressive, but their boisterous nature can lead to uncontrolled movements.

Herds of dairy cows
Dairy cows are milked every day and therefore used to close contact with humans. Nevertheless, they also want to be left alone to graze in peace and enjoy their summer in the mountains.

Enjoying Austria's mountain pastures together

TEN RULES ON HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND GRAZING ANIMALS

www.bergwelt-miteinander.at/weidevieh

10 rules

on how to behave around grazing animals

Austria's farmers make an important contribution to maintaining our country's natural landscape. As a visitor, we ask you to treat this landscape with respect and to adapt your behaviour. The following ten rules indicate the correct way to act when crossing alpine pastures.

1

Avoid contact with grazing animals, **do not feed them and keep a safe distance.**

2

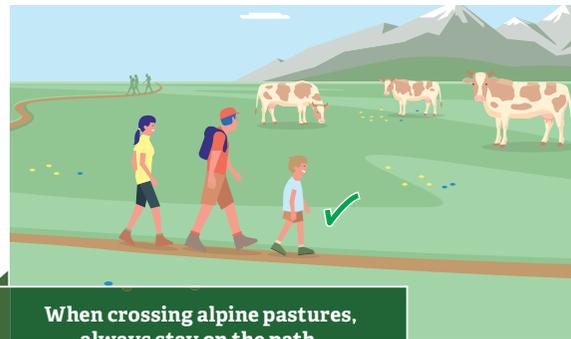Stay calm and quiet – **do not startle grazing cattle.**

3

Mother cows instinctively protect their young. **Therefore, keep dogs away from mother cows at all times.**

4

Always keep dogs under control and on a short leash. If you think you are going to be attacked by a grazing animal, **let go of the leash immediately.**

5

When crossing alpine pastures, always stay on the path.

6

If you find your route is blocked by grazing animals, **walk around them leaving as much space as possible.**

7

If grazing animals approach you, stay calm, **do not turn your back on them and move out of the way of the animals.**

8

Leave the pasture quickly as soon as you see early signs that the grazing **animals are becoming nervous or restless.**

9

Do not climb over fences. If there is a gate, use it. Make sure you then close it properly behind you and cross the pasture quickly.

10

Treat workers, nature and animals with respect.