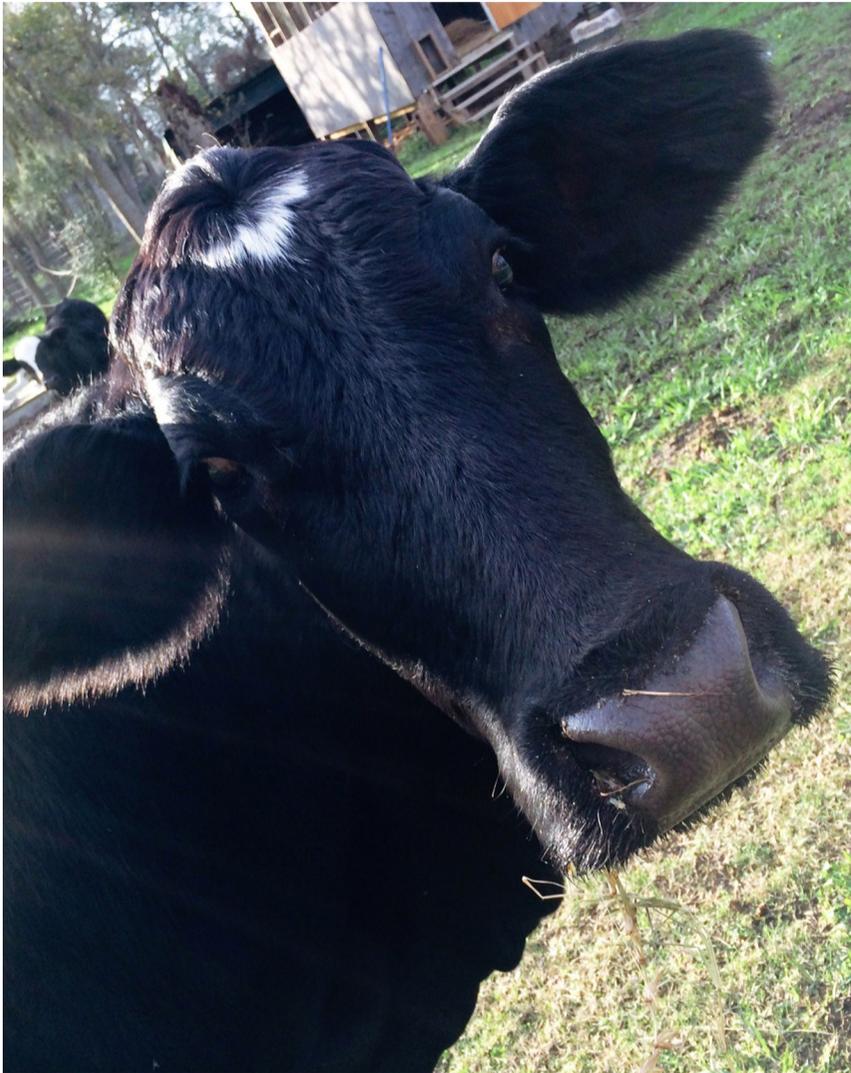


# SANCTUARY ANIMAL OF THE MONTH



## Rowdy Girl

### ● Renee tells Rowdy Girl's story

**W**here do I begin to tell the story of the darling Prima Donna cow named Rowdy Girl? I guess I'll start at the beginning as all good epics must have a great beginning and Rowdy Girl must've been blessed from the moment of her birth. She is the catalyst for a vegan farm animal sanctuary in Texas that is right slap dab in the middle of cattle country.

On March 25, 2010, Tommy Sonnen and I remarried. I was a city girl and he had picked up

the baton of his great grandpa's multi-generational cattle ranch. Tommy had acquired 96 acres and had a beef cattle ranch operation that was the culmination of his efforts for his upcoming retirement from Dow. I had never lived on a ranch and frankly wasn't impressed with all the dirt, bugs and cow manure but nevertheless, my curiosity and my love for Tommy coaxed me into getting to know my new life with as much enthusiasm and willingness as I could muster. Little did I know that I was on the verge of loving the animals I used to eat.

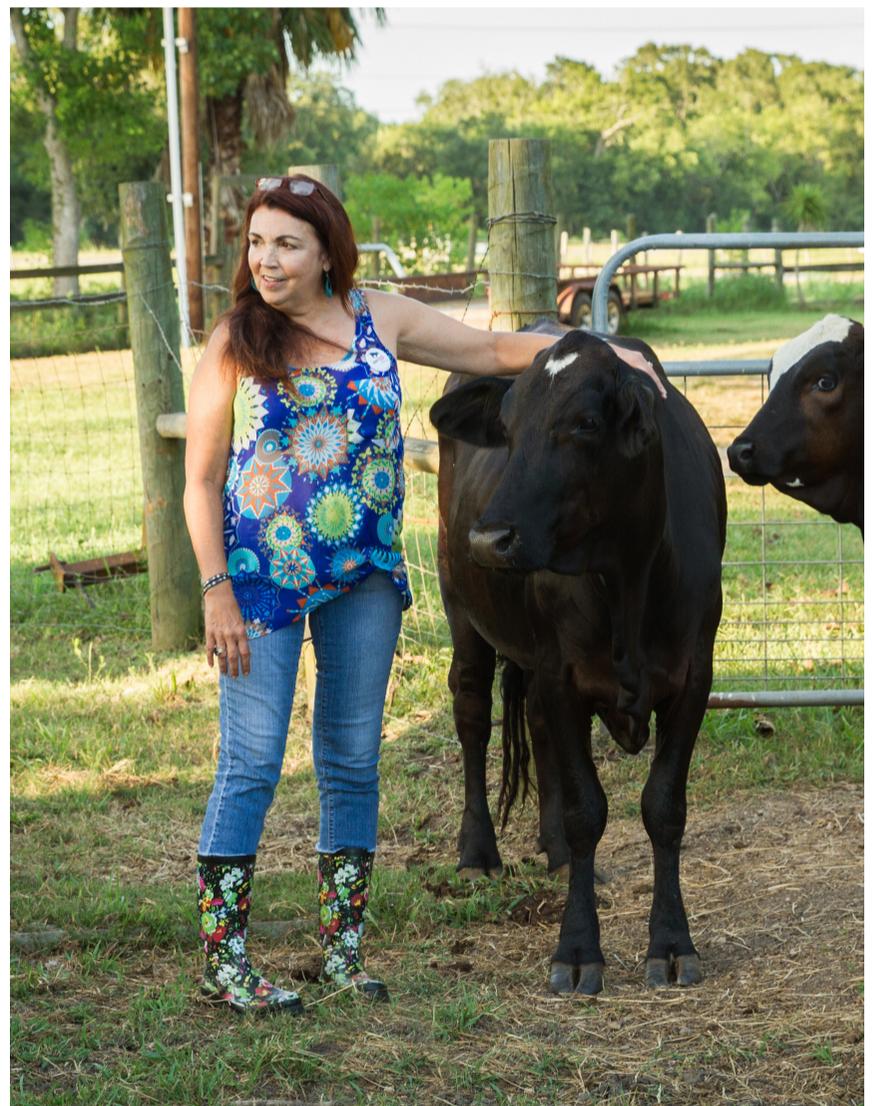
In order for me to feel like I was now a rancher's wife, Tommy took me to a small local rancher down the road and introduced me to a little baby calf that didn't have a momma. I don't know what happened to her momma. No one ever told me, but she was an orphan. Tommy asked me if I wanted to buy her and bottle feed her and call her my own. My eyes lit up and all at once I was in love. So for \$300, I became an official rancher. This little darling would run and jump and leap into the air and she was a rowdy little thing and out of my mouth I blurted, "I'm calling her Rowdy Girl!!".

Rowdy Girl became my obsession as she needed me twice a day for her bottle. I became her



momma and I beamed when she would run up to me to get her bottle. She grew up and became part of our herd but was always “my girl”. She is the momma of Lucky and Houdini and neither of them have ever left the ranch. Her family is intact.

In December of 2014 when everything at the Sonnen Ranch started coming to a head after I went vegan, I used Rowdy Girl, Lucky and Houdini as leverage to save the rest of the cows that Tommy was threatening to send to the sale barn auction house. If not for Rowdy Girl, there would be no “Rowdy Girl Sanctuary”. And this rowdy cow has transformed my own life. I have become just as rowdy as Rowdy Girl! Some folks even think that the name of the sanctuary is Rowdy Girl because of my rowdy persistence that won the heart of my husband who eventually went vegan, himself. He let me buy his herd to start the sanctuary in one of the most unlikely places of all... Angleton, Texas!



## About the Sanctuary

You can find out more about Rowdy Girl Sanctuary and support their work by clicking here: [rowdygirlsanctuary.com](http://rowdygirlsanctuary.com)