# Birmingham’s runaway bull Liam finds new home at Norfolk sanctuary



A bull named Liam, who made headlines after surprising city residents with his unexpected jaunt through Birmingham, has been successfully rehomed at Norfolk's Hillside Animal Sanctuary. The two-year-old bull was first spotted running along New Bond Street in Digbeth shortly before 9.30 am, prompting alarm among passers-by as it seemingly fled from an abattoir. Birmingham City Council staff quickly stepped in, corralling the “beautiful albeit misplaced” animal and keeping both the bull and the public safe until animal welfare professionals could assess the situation.

Wendy Valentine, founder of Hillside Animal Sanctuary, reported that they were alerted to Liam's plight through multiple calls from concerned supporters eager to provide assistance. After discussions with Birmingham police, they assured authorities that they could offer the bull a secure and compassionate home. With no one stepping forward to claim him, police granted permission for the sanctuary to collect Liam, who arrived in the early hours of Saturday, welcomed by a spacious environment alongside 750 other rescued cattle.

Upon his arrival, video footage captured Liam happily munching hay in his new surroundings, a marked contrast to his chaotic day in the city. Councillor Majid Mahmood, Birmingham’s cabinet member for environment and transport, commended the efforts of the public servants involved. He expressed gratitude on social media, stating, “Well done to our animal welfare staff & park rangers,” highlighting their quick action to ensure both the bull's safety and that of the local citizens.

Liam's escapade is not unique; other bulls have wandered through urban areas in Britain under similar circumstances. Notably, in May 2020, a bull that escaped from an abattoir in the Sparkbrook area caused significant disruptions, leading to its eventual capture by police after about thirty minutes of running through the streets. Fortunately, in contrast to other incidents where bulls have faced dire outcomes, such as the tragic fate of a bull in Wales that was deemed dangerous and subsequently euthanised, Liam has found refuge and hope for a long life ahead.

This incident resonates with a growing public fascination for animal welfare in urban settings. Just last year, a large mechanical bull from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games was saved from being dismantled following a public petition, demonstrating the emotional connection people have with these animals. Such incidents not only highlight the compassionate actions of sanctuaries like Hillside but also underline the need for continued discussions around animal rights and welfare, particularly for those at risk of exploitation.

With Liam now secure, animal advocates are hopeful that his story will encourage better practices regarding the treatment of livestock and raise awareness about the importance of animal sanctuaries. As he settles into life in Norfolk, Liam serves as a poignant reminder of both the challenges faced by animals in our urban landscapes and the opportunities offered by dedicated sanctuaries committed to providing them with safe havens.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/19/bull-rampages-around-birmingham-escaping-abattoir/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-42263999)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62433274), [[6]](https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/watch-bull-run-abattoir-causes-18274504)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/watch-bull-run-abattoir-causes-18274504), [[7]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/834885.stm)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/birminghams-on-the-run-bull-rehomed-in-norfolk-after-unexpected-city-break-T3K5VSFJ6JKG3OMEER6GQSO3ZA/> - A bull named Liam, approximately two years old, was spotted running through Birmingham's New Bond Street in Digbeth. After being safely corralled by Birmingham City Council staff, the animal was transferred to West Midlands Police. Wendy Valentine, founder of Hillside Animal Sanctuary in Norfolk, received multiple calls from concerned supporters and negotiated with the police to rehome the bull. With no one coming forward to claim him, the sanctuary agreed to take him in. Liam arrived at Hillside at about 2.45am on Saturday and will now live out his natural life with the sanctuary's 750 other rescued cattle. A video released by the sanctuary showed the bull munching hay in its new surroundings shortly after arrival. Councillor Majid Mahmood praised the council staff's efforts to ensure the safety of the animal and the public.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/19/bull-rampages-around-birmingham-escaping-abattoir/> - In May 2020, a bull escaped from an abattoir in Birmingham and caused a 30-minute rampage through the streets. The animal was seen running down Stratford Road in the Sparkbrook area, bringing traffic to a standstill. Members of the public attempted to herd the runaway bull, and two police cars pursued it, trying to create a roadblock. The bull eventually halted outside a chicken restaurant, where officers from West Midlands Police took approximately 30 minutes to catch it and load it into a van. A police car was damaged during the incident, but no one was injured.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62433274> - The 10ft mechanical bull used in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games was saved from being dismantled and recycled after a public campaign. Thousands of people signed an online petition to prevent its destruction. The bull will now be given a permanent home in the city centre, with the exact location yet to be decided. The campaign highlighted the public's appreciation for the bull, which had been a significant feature of the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-42263999> - In December 2017, a bull that escaped from an abattoir in Carmarthenshire, Wales, was 'humanely destroyed' after being deemed a danger to the public. The bull had escaped from Cig Calon Cymru abattoir to a field on Black Lion Road, Cross Hands. Residents were warned to stay inside their homes as the bull was extremely agitated. The road was closed to protect the public but has since reopened. A police spokesman stated that after considering various options to safely contain and deal with the bull, the only feasible option was to humanely destroy the animal.
6. <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/watch-bull-run-abattoir-causes-18274504> - In May 2020, a bull escaped from an abattoir and caused traffic chaos on Stratford Road in Birmingham. The animal was spotted by a member of the public in Sparkbrook at around 7.40am. Police cordoned off the road and worked with abattoir staff to catch the bull. A police car was damaged when the bull 'came into contact' with the vehicle. No one was hurt during the incident. A police spokesman confirmed that the bull was believed to have escaped from a nearby abattoir.
7. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/834885.stm> - In July 2000, a Charolais bull named Bertie escaped from the Mathieson Jess slaughterhouse in Dundee, Scotland. The bull fled across the busy Tay Bridge and took refuge in the grounds of a local nursing home, where he was tranquillised and recaptured. Norwich-based Hillside Animal Sanctuary offered Bertie a permanent home, expressing hope that the abattoir would allow him a new beginning. Dr Tim O'Brien, an animal welfare campaigner at Hillside, stated that Bertie's brave escape should not go unrewarded and that they were delighted to work with the Dundee charity to bring Bertie to Hillside for a safe, permanent home.