



Every once in a while, a mother Reindeer will give birth to a calf and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the calf is returned to the Reindeer, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once mother rejects one of her calves, she will never change her mind. Sometimes she will even try and hurt the baby calf, and often the calf is even rejected then by the whole herd.

These little calves will become so depressed they will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. Their hearts are hurting for the loss of love.

These calves are called "bummer calves." Unless a Reindeer handler intervenes, that calf will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the handler does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the calf can hear his heartbeat. The handler will give that reindeer calf the love and nurture that its mother would not.

That calf is no longer a "bummer calf" but is now the "Handlers Calf." Once the calf is strong enough, the handler will place it back in the field with the rest of the herd, and they will typically at this point receive the calf. That calf never forgets how the handler cared for him when his mother rejected him, and when the handlers calls for the herd, guess who runs to him first.

That is right, the bummer calf, or now the handler's calf. That calf knows his voice intimately.

It is not that the bummer calf is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it.

It's not that it is loved more, it just believes it because it has experienced that love one-on-one.

Created Memory for Child:

Give children stuffed (magical reindeers) reindeer toys and have them give the reindeer love and hugs for the next year. Their love and hugs will transmit magically to the real reindeer calf at the North Pole. This will help us and the handlers bring the calves spirit back up by feeling loved. This also creates a lasting memory for the children. They will also be learning to think of others first.

Christian Response:

So many of us are bummer calves... we feel rejected and broken. But He is the good handler. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat.

We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the handler. Our handler is the Jesus Christ. Jesus knows us completely. He will never abandon us. He loves us and will protect us. He will always keep us close to his heart. You just need to trust him and follow Him. (depending on the situation this can be a time to share the gospel of Jesus Christ).

