

It wasn't entirely random where the cow was tied...



MISPLACED: This cow was found outside a residence in Tistedal on Wednesday evening.
Photo: Anders Svendsen
16.01.25 09:50

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Did you read the mystery about the cow found near a house in Tistedal on Wednesday evening? Here's a truly unique story...

(Halden Arbeiderblad) – Huh? A cow tied to a stone staircase in Tistedal? Is that even possible?

That was likely many people's reaction when HA and several national media outlets reported the highly unusual news Wednesday evening. But what initially seemed like a somewhat comical story actually has an unpleasant backstory.

The cow was tied to a very specific residence, which HA has previously covered.

The owner, young Halden resident **Sebastian Ring Gjerlaugsen**, has made a fortune from gaming. Here he is seen outside his house, photographing the cow outside his property.



Photo: Anders Svendsen

Ring Gjerlaugsen owns the company Grim Entertainment AS, which had a turnover of NOK 52.3 million in 2023. The pre-tax profit showed a surplus of NOK 48.8 million.

For over a year and a half, Gjerlaugsen has been the target of a smear campaign. HA first reported on this campaign on October 13, 2023. At that time, flyers and posters were spread around Halden accusing him of embezzling millions.

– A harassment campaign

Gjerlaugsen stated the following to HA at the time:

– I strongly reject the claims made in this defamatory flyer campaign, as I am currently dealing with a harassment campaign. The platforms I am associated with strictly adhere to the industry's Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations. As a result, I have filed a police report, and the police have confirmed that they are investigating this matter, Gjerlaugsen wrote.

He was clear that the allegations were entirely false.

A complex case...

This case is complex and not easy to understand for those unfamiliar with the gaming world. But it involves gambling, "skins," and competitors.

Here's some background to help understand the case:

- **Background information:**

- The online casino **CSGORoll** is a gambling site where players can win "skins" used in the online game *Counter-Strike*. These skins are purely cosmetic but hold real-world value.
- In 2023, **CSGOEmpire**, a rival gambling site, accused over 40 accounts of money laundering by trading skins for cryptocurrency via CSGORoll.
- The individual targeted in the smear campaign is not among those accused of money laundering but is likely part of a larger smear campaign initiated by rivals.
- CSGORoll and CSGOEmpire are bitter competitors, and neither wishes the other well. Ideally, they'd prefer the other didn't exist.

The smear campaign became highly visible in October 2023.

After some months of silence in Halden and Tistedal, discussions about Gjerlaugsen heated up again on certain websites.

And then:

On February 27, 2024, something happened outside the Tista shopping center.

A person walked around the parking lot, placing flyers under windshield wipers on numerous cars. The message was the same as the banners displayed in Halden in October 2023, warning about the young Halden resident's business.



Photo: Hans Kristian Stensrud

Creating noise in the neighborhood

Soon, unusual activity began outside his house in Tistedal. People from abroad arrived in Norway to protest against Gjerlaugsen.

In his neighborhood, they set up tents, brought speakers, and shouted their messages. Some even carried pitchforks as they marched down the street.

Watch video here:



HA covered these peculiar days in this report:

– Eventually, they returned wearing masks...

A misplaced cow

Wednesday, January 15, 2025:

A police car is parked in the driveway of a property near Femsjøen. The property is completely quiet, with no signs that anything unusual has happened.



Two police officers are on-site, one of whom examines a fence post where a rope is firmly tied. Using tweezers, he collects any evidence that might be attached to it.

At the other end of the rope stands a one-year-old cow, completely out of place. It's on the staircase leading from the driveway to the veranda. Its hind legs rest on one step, and its front legs are three steps above.

The heifer has been given a bucket of water, placed on the stairs in front of her.



The police are securing evidence. Photo: Anders Svendsen

The owner was home

A passerby spotted the animal and alerted the property owner to the unusual sight.

HA contacted Sebastian Ring Gjerlaugsen on Wednesday evening. He confirmed he was aware that HA reported the incident occurred outside his home but declined to comment further.



Photo: Anders Svendsen

For Hroar Gimming from Klepper, the evening was also unusual. He was called by the police and asked for assistance.

– They don't know much about cows, but I do, he said.

However, there wasn't much he could do for the cow at that moment.

– We don't know where it came from or why it was placed here. Its ear tag has been cut off, but it still has a digital chip. Since it wasn't removed, it's likely someone unfamiliar with cows who placed it here, he said.

A veterinarian arrived at the property about an hour after the police. Together, the veterinarian and Gimming began searching for the cow's owner.

Has anyone in the Halden area lost a young cow?

No one could confirm they were missing a cow.

And no one knows yet where it came from...