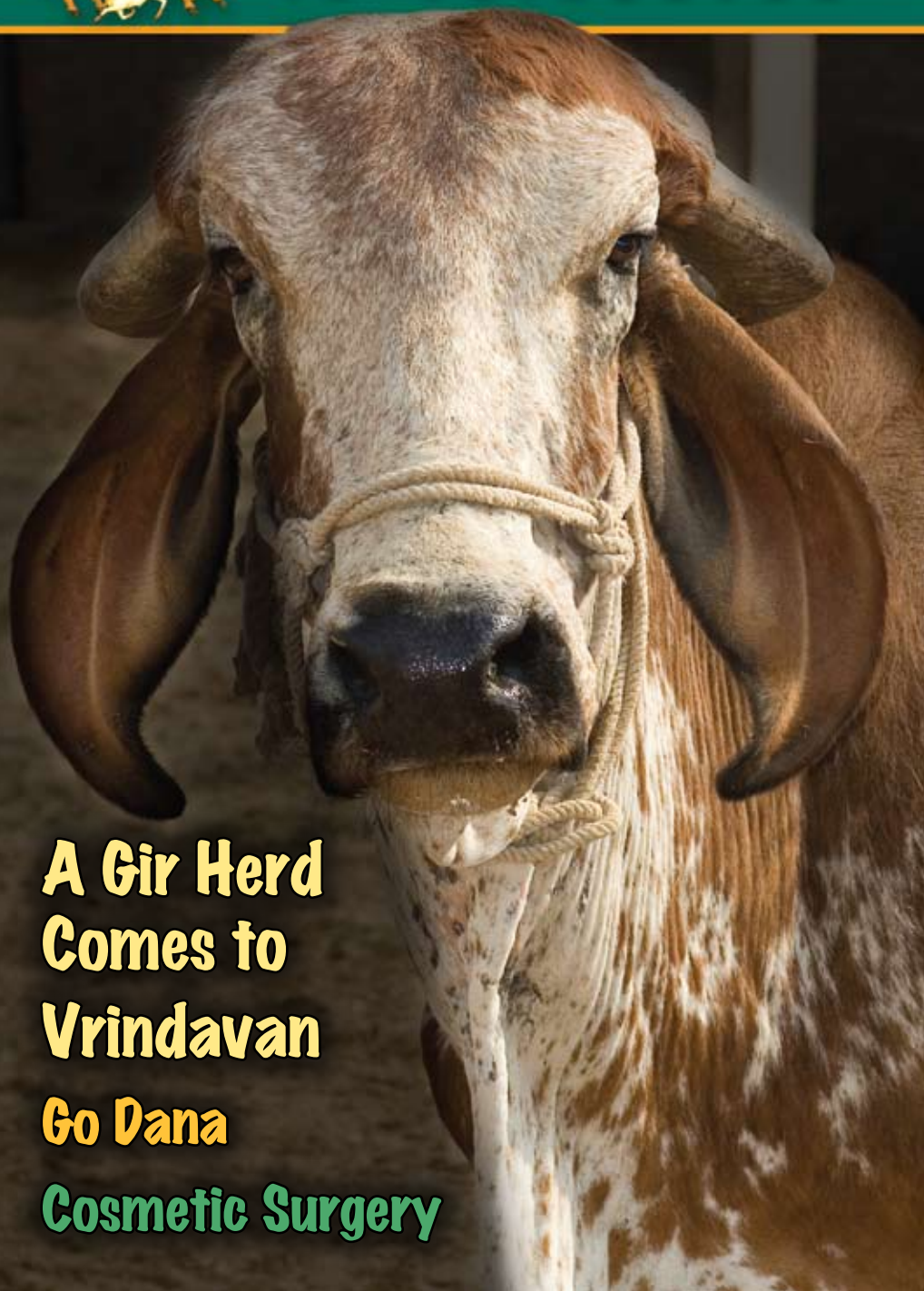


April 2009



CARE FOR COWS

I N V R I N D A V A N



**A Gir Herd
Comes to
Vrindavan**

Go Dana

Cosmetic Surgery

Jaya Sri Guru! Jaya Sri Gopala!
Jaya Sri Go Mata!

Dear Friends,

"The cow is the support by which one can directly transfer himself to heaven. She is also the perpetual cause of one's wealth and prosperity. I offer my obeisances to the cow, in whose body Laksmi, the Goddess of Fortune resides. I offer my respect to the beautiful cow, for she is pure, simple and aromatic. I bow down before the cow, who is the daughter of Brahma. She is pure, internally and externally, and she keeps the whole atmosphere pure by her presence. I repeatedly offer my obeisances to her.

Actually, the cow and the brahmana belong to the same family. Both are situated in the mode of goodness. If brahmanas are qualified to recite Vedic mantras, then cows will supply ingredients for their sacrifices. Only by the combination of both, the brahmanas and the cows, is the performance of sacrifice for the pleasure of Visnu complete.

The cow is the support of the entire world, as well as all of the demigods, the brahmanas, the saintly persons, the chaste ladies and other pious beings. She is always worshipable."

*Gomati-vidya, from Visnu-dharmottara
Part II - 42/49 to 58*

The CFC Staff

Care for Cows in Vrindavan is a Charitable Trust registered in India, USA, Holland and Switzerland.



Care for Cows in Vrindavana
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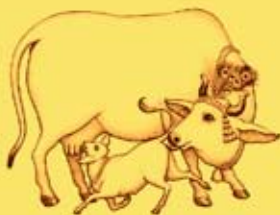
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CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN

careforcows.org

~ PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH ~




~ A GIR COW ~

A Gir Herd Comes to Vrindavan




The avid go-bhakta T.K. Choudry brings a Gir herd of thirty-two from Gujarat to Vrindavan

A close-up photograph of a brown cow's head and shoulder. The cow has a dark brown coat, a large black nose, and a thick, wrinkled ear. Its eye is partially visible, and a small white tag is attached to its ear. The background is a plain, light color.

This beautiful breed originates in the Gir forest region and surrounding districts of Saurashtra in the state of Gujarat, India. They are moderate to large in size, the cows weighing an average of 400-475 kilos and the bulls 550-650. Their bodily color varies from shining red to spotted white.

Their skin is soft, thin, and glossy and their hair is coated with an oil that is secreted by the skin that is a natural insect repellent. They have an extra layer of muscle tissue just under the skin which enables them to shake their skin to remove or discourage parasites.

This species have comparatively large dewlaps, large heads with a prominent bulging (convex) forehead and a long face. Their ears are long, pendulous and are said to resemble the leaves of banyan tree. Their tail is long and slender and their udder well developed. They are extremely intelligent and easy to work with.



A well-fed Gir cow can come into heat at around two-years of age and can deliver her first calf as early at three-years of age.

The gestation period lasts for 280-285 days. After calving the cow can give milk for about 310 days.

Many cows yield more than twelve liters of milk a day during their peak milking period with a fat content of about 4.5 per cent.

Gir cows live for 15-20 years and can produce 6-10 calves. There are many cows that produce more than twelve calves during their lifespan.

Gir are very social and spend a lot of time licking, touching and leaning on each other. The bulls tend to protect the herd and all members protect the calves. The cows seem to rotate being nurse maids and a large number of the calves stay together with them, but as soon as there is a disturbance the whole herd will rally to protect them.



backward are the prominent symptoms of the Gir species.



Above is the senior bull and leader of the herd

T.K. Choudry's herd is hosted on his twenty-five acre farm in the village of Bari Atas about six kilometers outside Vrindavan. There the herd is well protected and the milk they offer is carefully prepared into *ghee* for the use of Sri-Sri Krsna-Balaram, Sri-Sri Gaura-Nitai and Sri-Sri Radha-Syamasundara at Their temple in Raman Reti.

The thirty-two members of the herd were personally selected from several villages in Gujarat and brought to Vrindavan by truck. The three-day journey was broken up so the cows were not stressed.

While the climatic conditions in Vrindavan are very similar to

Gujarat, the feed is different and the cows are quickly adapting to the change. They recently had their first banana feast and it seems they are developing a taste for them.

Fencing is being placed around the farm so that the herd can graze during the day and enjoy the shade offered by the several large trees which grace the spacious fields.

Plans are in effect to acquire adjacent land and expand the grazing area towards the East where the Yamuna River flows only one-and-a-half kilometers away.

Visitors arrive daily to offer snacks and stroke the gentle members of this fine herd.



Above: A darling Gir calf.

Below: Six members of the herd gather in the shade.





Go Dana

Giving a Cow in Charity

Bhishma said: "They who make gifts of kine, and who subsist upon the remnants of things offered as libations on the sacred fire, are regarded, O Yudhishtira, as always performing sacrifices of every kind.

No sacrifice can be performed without the aid

of curds and ghee. The very character of sacrifices depends upon ghee. Hence ghee (or, the cow from which it is produced) is regarded as the very root of sacrifice.

Of all kinds of gifts, the gift of kine is applauded as the highest."

Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva, Section LXXXIII



Anand Kumar Sharma offers Go Dana

Anand Kumar Sharma, the eldest son of a pious *brahmana* family, visited Care for Cows and explained, "We are determined to give a cow in charity for the sake of benefitting my ailing father. We have visited many of the *goshallas* in Vrindavan and have decided that Care for Cows is the most worthy place to offer this gift.

What is the procedure to offer a cow in charity to you?"

We responded that our service is to attend to abandoned cows and that rather than purchase a cow and calf from a farmer, better to take one off the street and give her to us.

Anand turned to his wise mother and explained our proposal. She



Anand Kumar and Mukunda Datta Dasa sit with folded hands



knitted her brow and gently shook her head negatively responding that they must offer a cow that is giving milk.

The previous day a friend from Madhuvana Colony had witnessed an abandoned cow giving birth in the neighborhood. He feared that the dogs in the neighborhood may attack the calf and brought the couple to the safety of Care for





while other members of the family observe the ceremony.





Anand Kumar offers *arati* to Gauri

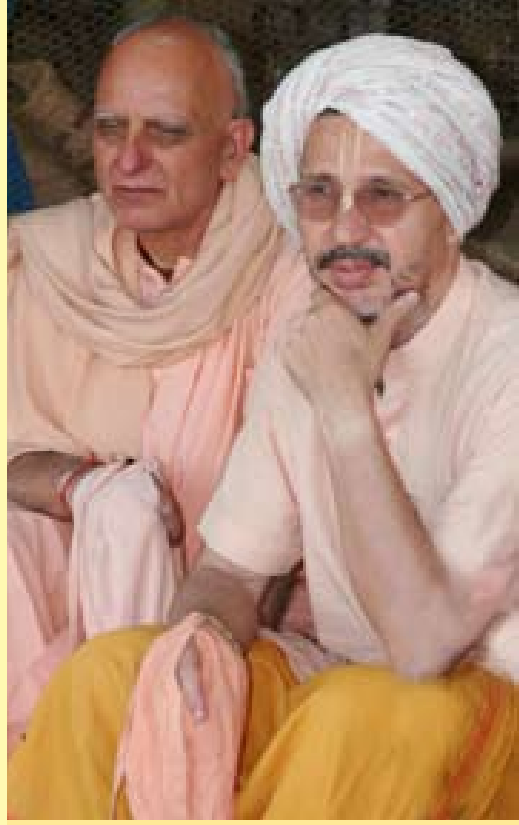
Cows. Though the white cow was undernourished and hungry, she was producing enough milk to sustain her newly-born black bull calf. We suggested that the Sharma family adopt the cow and calf and that would constitute giving them in charity to us, we all agreed and smiled in satisfaction.

They went off to secure the items necessary for the ceremony and we arranged for His Grace Mukunda Datta Dasa, Head Pujari of the Sri-Sri Krsna-Balarama Mandir to officiate the function. We agreed to meet again that afternoon at 4:30.

The Sharma's returned with various fruits, flowers, grains,

gur, cloth, fresh grass and all other things required. The cow and calf had been bathed for the occasion and were curious as to the proceedings. When the priest began the ceremony the calf began to nurse vigorously from his mother creating the well-known auspicious omen.

Mukunda Datta Prabhu chanted the required mantras, expertly performed the proceedings and emphasized that along with the offering of a cow in charity, the Sharma family should embrace the recitation of the Lord's holy names as a daily practice. He stated that chanting the Lord's names is the Yuga Dharma, or the prime duty of the age and its performance



will create further auspiciousness in their lives. The ceremony concluded with feeding the cow grains, gur, fruits and green grass and offering her *arati* with flowers, incense and a *ghee* lamp.

The Sharma family was then asked to name the cow and calf and they promptly decided to call her Gauri and the calf Shankar.

Before beginning their return trip to Delhi the Sharma family announced that they would visit Vrindavan regularly to see how their cows were getting on.

As they drove away Shankar, having filled his belly with his mother's milk, began running around the barnyard determined to improve the coordination in his mighty legs and hooves.

At the commencement of the ceremony two wandering renunciants appeared unannounced to grace the occasion with more auspiciousness. They are His Holiness Kesava Swami Maharaja and His Holiness Yadu Prakash Gosvami Maharaja.





Cosmetic Surgery

Hi, my name is Saraswati and I have been living at care for cows for more than two years. I am being sponsored by Nityananda Dasa who lives in Alachua, Florida.

About a month ago a small growth appeared on the inside of my ear. I didn't pay much attention to it and before long it developed into quite an ugly unbecoming site.

The cowherd men took notice and told me that the bad news was that I had a wart; but that the good news was that they still cared about me and were going to remove it.

Now, since I'm naturally averse to sharp metal objects in general and scalpels in particular I was not excited by their proposal. So I protested and though they told me that they were not going to slice it off, that they were going to just tightly tie a string around it and wait for it to fall off, it was of little consolation.

The next thing I remember is that about six strong hands had me down on the ground and they started fiddling with my ear. When they released me they brushed me off and gave me two bananas and I more or less forgot the whole incident.

Three days later the wart fell off and they congratulated me with two more bananas. How do I look?



Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heart-felt thanks to those who assisted during March 2009

Alla Nikolayeva
Amit Goswami
Amit Jagtiani
Amy Bardsley
Anand Kumar Sharma & Family
Anatolij Dorogutin
Andrejs Porofijevs
Anna Leonova
Anna Mityashina
Anna Sunko
Annmarie Phelan
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Araik Avetisyan
Arya & Vijeta
Beryl Trimble
Bharat Jaisinghani
Carl & Stella Herzig
Chandramukhi Dasi
Chandricka Pasupati
Dace Ezermale
David Thornton
Devala Dasa
Dmitri David Frolov
Dominik Bletz
Dhruva Maharaja Dasa
Eka Gopi
Elena Carre
Elizabeth Stewart
Filip Cargonja
Gauranga Priya Dasi
George Constantopoulos
Gottfried Rainer
H.H. Smita Krsna Swami
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Linda Hungerford
Lisa Kubisz
Madhava Dasa
Mani Shankar
Manish Bishnoi
Manoj Kumar Vadavat
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Trinad Api Dasa
Tusta Krsna & Stephanie
Vaibhava Dasa
Valerio Virgini
Vera Elizarova
Vidyasagar Lokhande
Vikas Shah
Vishal Comar
Vladimir Ivanov
Vyasapada Dasa
William Hiler
Yajnavalkya dasa
Yogamaya Dasi
Yulia Chernyaeva

May cows stay in front of me; may cows stay behind me; may cows stay on both sides of me. May I always reside in the midst of cows. —Hari Bhakti Vilas 16.252