

December 2006



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN



Rescuing Cows in Radha Kund

Surprise Arrivals

Patient Updates

Go Sevaks Visit CFC

Go-Smaranam

And Much More



Surprise Arrivals

Last Ekadasi was a very auspicious day at Care for Cows with the arrival of two healthy and unexpected newborn calves.

Vanamali kept her secret well concealed right up until the night before her delivery when one of the cowherd men noticed how swollen

her milk bag had become. Sure enough the next morning at 6am sharp Vanamali gave birth to a beautiful white calf named Ekadasi. There was excitement all around and phone calls were made to inform well wishers of the joyful event. Two hours later Bhumi delivered a

chocolate brown calf to the amazement of all, as Bhumi was thought to have conceived only 3 months ago. Apparently she was already pregnant long ago and the proof was right there, standing very wobbly before us. It was double celebrations at Care for Cows!



At one hour old Belvan is already standing



Bhumi affectionately mothers her newborn bull calf



Ekadasi and Belvan born two hours apart



Vanamali grooms her newborn daughter named Ekadasi, only 3 hours old



Gaurangi on arrival in the Care for Cows ambulance with Sudevi of Radha Kund and Kurma Rupa



Superficial leg wound



Treating wounds and abrasions on Gaurangi's back leg



On a short course of vitamin and mineral injections

Car Accident Saves

Gaurangi was allowed to roam freely on the main road outside her home which doubles as a taxi business. One day her owner was backing one of the taxis out on the road and accidentally ran her over.

Needless to say he was shocked when he got out of the car and saw

what had happened, but even more shocking is that he just left her laying on the roadside for the following 15 days without medical attention. Gaurangi was unable to stand having sustained injuries to her hind legs, which were fortunately not fractured.

She was spotted by Sudevi, a go-sevak from Radha Kunda who made arrangements for her relocation to Care for Cows, collecting her with Kurma Rupa in the CFC Ambulance. Dr Lavania examined the calf that afternoon and had the cowherd men lift her to her feet. To the delight of



Treating a skin fungus on Gaurangi's neck and face



Relaxing with a morning oil massage to help leg mobility



Recuperating Gaurangi at Care for Cows



Standing with assistance Gaurangi takes a few first steps after her accident two weeks back

Gaurangi's Life?

all she was able to stand and walk assisted for a short time. Each day that followed Gaurangi's legs were massaged with Gavausadhi Healing Oil to remove the pain and stiffness from her limbs. She has made steady progress, each day spending more time on her feet and now she is able

to walk around unassisted. She is still a bit wobbly and cannot stand up on her own yet, but her leg wounds are healing, she's in less pain, and she has a terrific appetite.

Gaurangi's previous owner came by CFC 10 days after her admittance and was surprised to see her

condition so much improved. He explained that he was out searching for Gaurangi's mother who had been abducted overnight from the front of his house, most likely by butchers. He was happy to leave Gaurangi at CFC where she is receiving proper care and is protected from thieves.

Rescuing Cows



Sudevi Dasi
has a penchant for
renunciation, bhakti
and cows. She is

originally from Germany
and first came to India
on a spiritual quest when
she was nineteen. After

visiting many holy places
she settled in Radha Kund
to perform Radha-Krsna
bhajan and has been there



An weak and infirm bull unable to stand is brought to Sudevi's goshalla to be protected.

in Radha Kund



Sudevi dasi Makes a Difference

for the past 25 years.

Ten years ago she
got inspired to tend to
abandoned and especially

injured cows found in the
Radha Kund and Govardhan
area and has collected
more than 100 and is

practically attending to
them alone.

Somehow today
in most parts of India



He is brought to a sitting position and consoled and encouraged.



the culture of cow protection has deteriorated to the degree that cows are seen as objects to take service from rather than to serve. They are kept only when they provide milk, otherwise one is thought foolish to keep them. It is a sad state of affairs.

A European tourist visiting Vraja for the first time asked, "I thought cows were sacred in India. Why are they loitering in the rubbish bins?"

Even more perturbing is the comment of an Islamic Indian gentleman who, scratching his head, said, "I cannot understand Hindus. They go on and on about how sacred the cow is and will riot violently for days if a Muslim harms one. They hail the cow as their mother yet surprisingly show no remorse as she sits in the garbage heaps with the hogs."

Indeed, abandoned and injured cows have become so common in the streets of Vraja that practically no one notices them anymore. Except for Sudevi. Whenever she encounters an injured cow all other business stops and she can think of nothing but helping her. She has three hired men to help with the feeding and handling of the animals and a village "doctor" who assists with the more difficult cases. Several of the cows in her care

Top: An abandoned cow with an infected hoof.

Middle: Sudevi's men load her on the truck.

Bottom: Two new patients ready to go to Radha Kund.

have broken or amputated limbs and one is blind.

After tending to the wounded patients, which some days takes several hours, Sudevi sends her men to the streets of Radha Kund and Govardhana in search of injured cows. She reports that there is an increasing number of cows and bulls in the streets and that they are now being abandoned at an earlier age. She says that some of the calves are but four months old when they are turned out.

She hires a truck and her men patrol the streets and when they find an injured cow they inquire from the neighbors if she has an owner or not. Generally, an injured cow is seen as a liability and even owners who have the means to pay for medical supplies refuse to. So the chances of anyone claiming a injured cow in the street are practically nil.

Until now Sudevi's expenses have been



A calf with a mending tibia



A blind cow walks in circles in her private pen



One of the several patients with a broken limb



Above: Sudevi caresses a well-attended patient





The satisfied and happy faces of cows whose health has been restored by Sudevi

provided by her elderly parents but she is expanding beyond their capacity and is in need of and deserves further support. Care for Cows will start featuring many of her cows on the Residents pages of our web site with the hope our viewers will be inspired to offer support, for Sudevi's *goshalla* is one in spirit with Care for Cows.



Below: Sudevi's healthy cows enjoy the winter sun in their spacious barn yard north of Radha Kund





Sri Digambara Naga Baba

Nanda Kisor and Kurma Rupa of CFC

Concerned Go Sevaks

Care for Cows was honored by the visit of three *go sevaks* this month all expressing concern for the sorry plight of the Vrindavan cows.

The visitors were Sant Sri Digambara Naga Baba who has been rescuing abused and abandoned cows in the Vraja area for the past fifty years; Sudevi dasi who has been tending to injured cows in Radha Kund for the past

ten years; and Wenda Shehata from UK who is presently touring India discussing the importance of cow protection in several forums and communities.

Sri Digambara Naga Baba is concerned as many local farmers are abandoning the culture of cow protection and openly selling their cows and bulls for slaughter. We received a report during Kartika that even the head of a

large goshalla, wearing tilak and neck beads, openly admits that he sells all his bull calves to butchers while collecting substantial donations for cow protection.

Owing to greed and the rapid deterioration of Vedic culture the local Vrajavasis no longer face social repercussion for abandoning their cows or selling them for slaughter. In his determined effort



Baba's secretary Ramesh, and Sudevi dasi



Wenda Shehata encouraging new residents at CFC

Visit Care for Cows

to combat this trend Naga Baba has established seven *goshallas* to host cows and bulls rescued from the hands of butchers. At present he is hosting more than 2,000 and is hailed as the most dedicated cow protector in Vraja Mandala.

Sudevi dasi is determined to get the cows off the street before they die of neglect or are abducted for slaughter. Though without adequate

veterinary assistance, she confidently moves from patient to patient each morning cleaning wounds and mending broken limbs. Her place more resembles a battlefield hospital than a *goshalla*.

Wenda Shehata spent four days in Vrindavan grooming and encouraging our residents and sharing with us her vast experience in cow protection further infusing in us the conviction

that peace and harmony in society is not possible without properly protecting cows. She also offered advice on alternative medicines.

Wenda and her partner live on a farm in England where they have a herd of 35 cows and a large organic garden. They daily offer Agnihotra *yajna* and with the *gober* and ash replenish and nourish their pastures and gardens.

Don't Be Caught Dead in Leather



Every day in India cows are inhumanely trafficked to illegal slaughterhouses



An abattoir worker walks upon a delivery of mangled bodies

India's Great Shame

PETA India

Traffic stopped and inquisitive onlookers stood by when PETA India recently held a unique protest in which Bangalore activists lay in a row of open coffins with a banner placed across them stating, "Don't Be Caught Dead in Leather".

The message being that dead skin is *never* fashionable at the expense of lives, and to raise awareness about how animals are treated before they are turned into leather shoes, bags and other products. Buying leather directly contributes to the misery of

the abattoir. The vast majority of animals used for their skin suffer horrors such as painful mutilations, deprivation of all that is natural and important to them, physical abuse and cruel treatment during transport and slaughter.

In India, even the most basic animal protection laws are ignored in the production of leather. Animals are regularly crowded onto lorries in such high numbers that many become severely injured; they are often gouged by horns and crushed,

and many of them die *en route*. At most abattoirs, animals are dragged inside and cut open – often with dirty, blunt knives in full view of one another – on floors covered with faeces, blood, guts and urine, with some animals skinned and dismembered while they are still conscious.

India is the largest exporter of leather in the world. Next time you buy – ask for the non-leather variety, available at most major stores. Kindness is that simple.



HIGH QUALITY GENUINE CALF LEATHER



Kanchana Update



Though Kanchana lost her right eye she still has some vision in the left eye which helps her immensely

Last month Kanchana was brought into Care for Cows in bad shape with a serious eye wound. Her former owner had turned her out onto the street to fend for herself when she most needed help.

Unfortunately the eyeball was completely destroyed and left her with a large, deep wound. In the CFC November news we reported how Dr Lavania had sutured the upper and lower 'eyelids' together and hopes were for the infection to clear as new tissue filled up the cavity. Fortunately this is exactly what happened without any setbacks.

Once the sutures were removed we continued cleaning and dressing the wound daily and were amazed at how each day the wound had changed and filled in. Once the infection completely cleared Kanchana's wound was cleaned every alternate day to allow the tissue to grow undisturbed. Today after six weeks of care Kanchana's wound has completely closed leaving a thin, horizontal pink line of scar tissue.

Kanchana's following of concerned well-wishers' prayers were answered during the month when it became evident that Kanchana could perceive shapes and movement from her good eye that had appeared completely blind on her arrival. Hence she is happily investigating her new surroundings at CFC.



18 October 2006 - Kanchana's eye wound on arrival after cleaning out maggots and dead tissue



9 November 2006 - sutures are removed and the wound continues to fill out with healthy tissue



27 November 2006 - the wound completely closed and new hair growth evident



This is the fourth of a series of eight photo essays illustrating the daily activities of cows. We hope this serves to endear them to you.

Tongue-twisting is a curious activity that some cows do regularly and others hardly ever do. Those who do it practically go into trance and seem to be oblivious to everything else.



Astha-kaliya lila

Go Smaranam

Meditating on the eight-fold daily pastimes of cows

Tongue-Twisting

As far as we know it is a habit they develop and all the people we asked indicated that there is no known purpose for it. We welcome any information regarding this practice.







The prolapsed tissue free of maggots but still covered in spots of infection and dead tissue



Dr Lavania replaces the prolapse which would be pushed out again within minutes without suturing



Suturing the vulva prevents a reoccurrence of the vaginal prolapse

A young cow from a Varshana dairy was impregnated early and developed some complications which caused a vaginal prolapse. As the dairymen were unwilling to fund the necessary medical expenses required she was left in a precarious condition too long.

When she arrived at Care for Cows the prolapsed tissue was maggot infested and infected. Dr Lavania manually replaced the prolapse, sutured the vulva and prescribed a course of antibiotics. Some time later the sutures were removed and after four weeks of treatment the infection finally cleared. She will live at Care for Cows now and has been named Varshana Ratna, the Jewel of Varshana.

Jewel



Sugar mixed in an ointment base is pasted onto the wounds



from Varshana



Syringes of diluted iodine flush deep inside to clean the infected tissue



Unpasteurized honey is then syringed in to coat the tissue and aid in fast healing

From Bulls to Oxen

What's the difference between a bull and an ox? One has met a Burdizzo and the other has not...

A Burdizzo, bloodless emasculator, turns bulls into oxen in minutes. The Burdizzo is used to crush the spermatic cord on each side of the scrotal neck, cutting off the blood supply to the testicles. Care must be taken that the Burdizzo is not applied too high, where the urethra may be accidentally crushed, leading to urethral rupture and subcutaneous accumulation of urine. The Burdizzo is ideally used for young bulls aged between 15 months to 18 months, and many countries have legal upper limits on the age at which Burdizzo and rubber ring castration may be carried out.

The procedure takes only a couple of minutes and the young oxen return to the herd somewhat sore but are often seen sparring and playing soon after. At Care for Cows most of our young bulls become oxen because bulls often fight, especially over cows in heat, and can kill or cause serious injury to each other. Whereas oxen are more mellow in temperament than bulls, and hence live more harmoniously together in a herd environment.



A young bull is restrained and held still while Dr Lavania carefully clamps the Burdizzo in position



Over in a few seconds, the clamp is released



Medicated ointment is applied to the pinched skin to reduce risk of infection and to repel flies