

Sept. 2008



CARE FOR COWS

I N V R I N D A V A N

Flowing with the Monsoon

Davanala Kund Fatality

CFC House Call

New Arrivals





Care for Cows in Vrindavana
is inspired by
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-Acharya
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN

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

Dear Friends,

Most *go sevaks* in Vraja curse us since we make an attempt to control breeding in our herd. They say it is an offense to keep the cow from the bull when she's in heat.

I agree that the biological urges of cows should not be restricted, but since the pasturing grounds have been usurped the space and resources required to protect cows have become scarce and expensive, I take it as a necessary adjustment to dire circumstances.

It seems to me, however, that the locals who rally for unrestricted breeding do so not because they want to avoid offenses to the cows. Were that their real concern they would never usurp the pasturing grounds; nor keep the cows and calves tied by a three foot rope all day; nor starve the calves to death or malnutrition to maximize the milk harvest; nor abandon the cow and the calf in the street when the milk stops; nor break the legs of cows who wander into their fields; nor refer to the bulls as useless.

Aren't these certainly more serious offenses? Why are they unanimously ignored while the one restricting breeding is most carefully avoided?

Because breeding brings milk and milk brings money. Breeding brings profit while protecting the cows brings expenses. Their real concern is about profit and loss.

The CFC Staff
careforcows.org

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

~ PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH ~



~ VISHAKA ~



FLOWING WITH

This year's monsoon came two months early and has so far lasted three months. This unnatural occurrence has resulted in crop failure and flooding throughout the area. It impacted on us heavily at Care for Cows because our land is low so water from the street and adjacent plots flowed into the *goshalla*.

The flooded areas became swamp-like and reduced the areas where the cows can sit to a minimum. Fortunately, the areas for the sick and invalid remained relatively dry, though crowded.

The reduced inhabitable areas resulted in crowding and produced much anxiety for the cows as they had to compete to

get their share of food which is quite unnatural. The stronger ones became fat and the weaker ones lost weight.

The cowherd men had to work in ankle deep slippery, sticky clay which makes wearing shoes or boots practically impossible. Working barefoot for prolonged periods in the mud results in painful cracked skin between the toes.

We dug a trench to the back part of the property which allowed the collected rain water to flow out but afterwards the cows would fill it up with their wandering and each time it rained we had to re-dig parts of it.

We brought in twenty-five trolleys of sand to fill the lower



THE MONSOON

areas and that helped to some degree but it continued to be very frustrating and depressing for all. We found ourselves praying for the rain to stop.

We noticed however that the abandoned cows wandering in the area were becoming plump and shiny as the rains brought all kinds of vegetation to the roadsides and empty fields. The abandoned cows were celebrating the rains while those of us confined to *goshallas* were



cursing them. That's when it occurred to us that we were going against the flow.





The rains had transformed the former desert-like area behind the *goshalla* into acres of thick vegetation. While there are still many thorn bushes, there are pockets of grass and areas with many bushes, some five or six feet high. We decided to train our herd to graze in this area which is only about a ten minute walk from the *goshalla*.

Cows prefer the known over the unknown and resist change so we knew we were in for a challenge to get our Sundrakh herd to leave the premises to go grazing. At the same time we knew that once the cows understood that fresh grasses awaited them and that they would return to the safety of the *goshalla*, they would be happy and welcome the change.

We began with six men taking out fifteen of the more submissive residents and after letting them graze for about







three or four hours marched them back to the *goshalla*. We increased the number daily by ten or fifteen and regularly had to goad the new members to stay with the veterans. Some refused to cooperate and returned to the *goshalla* in a panic while others ran in all directions in rebellion. It was often exhausting.

On the fifth day we managed to take out about ninety and it started

to get easier. By the tenth day the herd had accepted the change and waited at the gate anxious to go out. Now they look forward to the exercise and the opportunity to taste the variety of vegetation.

Today only two men are required to accompany the herd of 125 and this change has brought about a welcoming attitude toward the monsoon rains.







The young bull
accidentally fell
down the stairs
to this point.



Davanala Kund Fatality

Davanala Kund is a sacred place associated with Krsna's pastime of devouring a forest fire to protect the cows. Several years ago it was restored and the steps descending to the kund were covered with red sandstone. A two-year-old bull who frequented there accidentally fell on the stairs and tumbled approximately twenty feet to a landing. He lay there unable to move for a few hours until the residents around the kund arranged to carry him up.

Dr. Lavania, who lives in the area, was summoned and after examining the bull asked us to bring him to our clinic for treatment.

The bull was battered severely by the edges of each stair and since he could not move his tail or his hind legs, Dr. Lavania suspected that his spine had been broken during the fall.

He recommended medicines to reduce the swelling, pain and shock and told us to keep him in a sitting position to prevent him from getting bloated. The bull ate very little and was unable to get comfortable.

After close examination we could see where his spine was broken in the middle of his back. He stayed with us for three days during which time we did all we could to make him comfortable and then he departed.





**CFC
HOUSE
CALL**

Vijay Singh is a resident of Sundrakh village who makes his living by grinding grains and selling milk. We used to buy milk from him when our orphaned *nil gais* Radhika and Janardana were nursing.

We had bought milk from several villagers but changed when we found out they were mixing the cows milk with that of buffaloes. Vijay boasted that he always kept his cow and buffalo milk separate and upon examining his cow milk we were pleased to see that it had a yellow hue to it.

Vijay told us that his cow had suffered a fall and broken her leg and asked us to help treat her. Syam Hari who is the chief of our medical staff gathered the things necessary to treat a broken leg and has made four house calls to treat Vijay's cow. We also treated her for ticks as she was covered with hundreds, if not thousands of them.

Now Vijay and his family members have learned how to wash the wound and change the dressing so they are doing it while we continue to supply the iodine, bandages and cotton.

During our visits to their home we noticed that Vijay's right fingertips are yellowed by tumeric and now understand why his cow's milk looks so rich!



On our daily excursions to take the cows out to graze we came across a fourteen-month-old abandoned bull and a one-year-old female calf.

The bull had apparently been run over by a car in the accident lost his rear hoof and suffered an injury on his front knee. We found him foraging in the forest walking on three legs with both injuries filled with maggots.

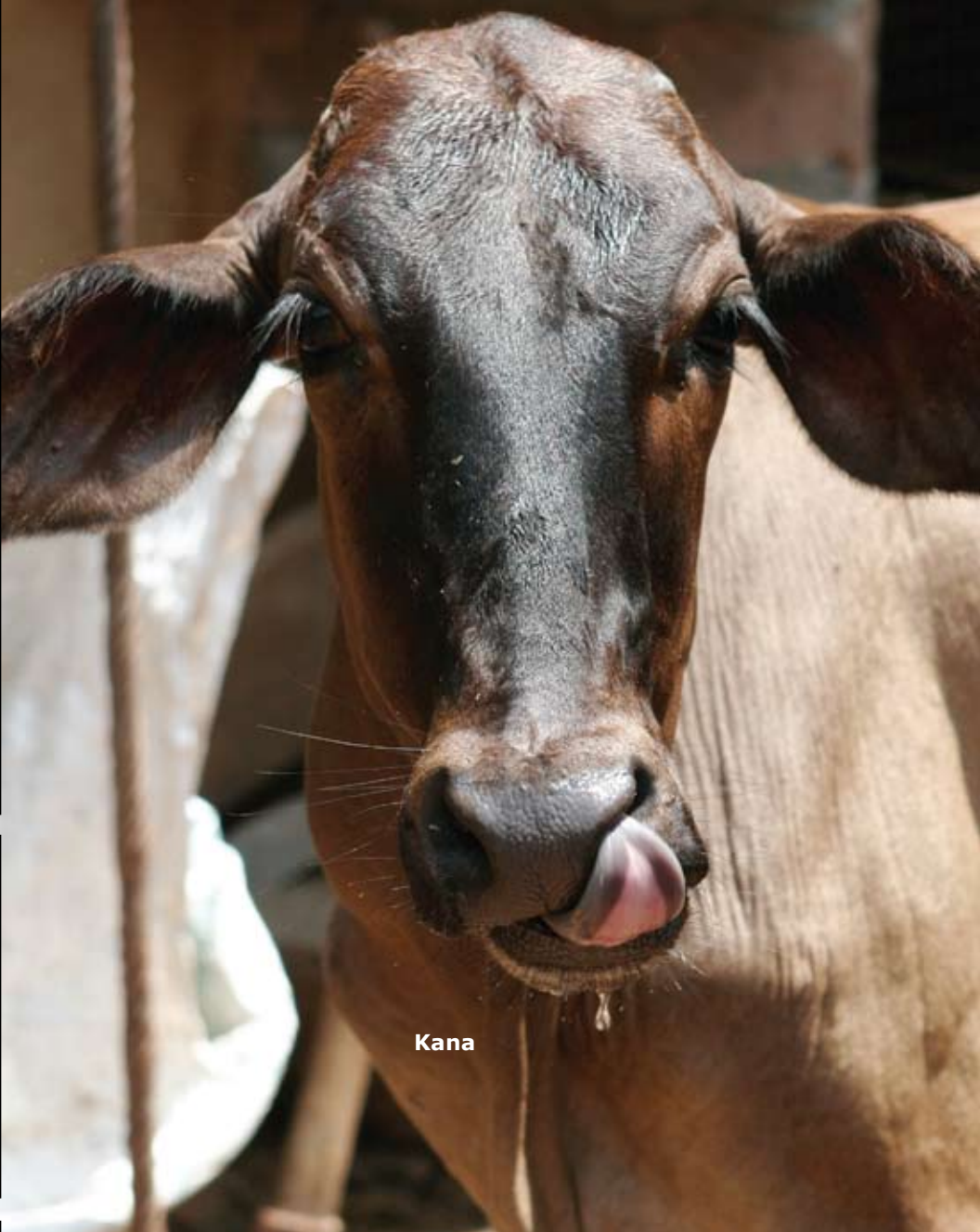
Though he was apprehensive we managed to catch him easily and he is turning out to be very gentle and obedient. He can move around very well and is a good patient.

It took three days to get the maggots out of his injuries so the healing can start. Dr. Lavania has told us to apply tri-oxide to the hoof wound to keep it dry.

Hoof wounds are known to take months to heal so we are keeping the bull in the same stall as Vinodilal and changing his bandages as necessary.

The young bull's morale is improving and he is eating heartily so we are hopeful he will be well in a few months. We are not sure to what degree his hoof will be restored but are hopeful that he will be able to take care of himself. He has been named Kana.






Kana

NEW ARRIVALS



NEW ARRIVALS



The female calf was found foraging in the forest at dusk. She is frail and emaciated and stumbles when she walks. Her pelvic bones and ribs are clearly visible and her eyes are sunken.

A pack of dogs understood she was weak and were stalking her. Had we not interfered, they would have certainly attacked and devoured her that night.

She is so weak that she requires help to stand up at times so we are feeding her grains and vitamin supplements hoping she starts to gain strength and weight. She is timid and gentle and has been named Hema (the golden one).



Hema



Jyoti is a one-year-old female calf who lives in a colony near Care for Cows. Her owners don't look after her properly so she wanders in the neighborhood and feeds herself. One day she wandered into a farmer's field and to prevent her from coming back there, he struck her with a staff on her rear shank and shattered her bone. This is the standard way the local farmers deal with foraging cows.

Jyoti hobbled home and her owners shrugged their shoulders and did nothing to help her. A good-hearted neighbor named



Surya Prakash arranged for us to pick her up and volunteered to cover the expenses for her recovery.

Dr. Lavania removed part of the bone so the healing could begin. It is expected that it will take three to four months for her to heal.



Jyoti

NEW ARRIVALS

LOST & FOUND

During the ordeal of training the herd to graze we lost two of our residents: Prana who has been with us since June 2007; and Sama Veda who has been with us since October 2003.

As the cow herd men marched the cows towards the pasturing grounds there were several instances of rebellion when cows would run in all directions. When the men would chase after them with intent of making them return to the herd, the fugitives would run further away and in these two cases, got lost.

Since Sama Veda has a calf (Nila Madhava) back at the *goshalla* we felt confident that she would find her way back. Nevertheless, after feeding the herd in the afternoon four of us set out in search for them.

Prana was sighted sitting peacefully on the side of the main road but was still uncertain what our intentions were and was thus flighty and would not let us touch him. We walked behind guiding him back to CFC and as we got within 100 meters of the gate, some young men on a motorcycle rode towards us beeping their horn. Prana became startled and did an abrupt about face and took off again. Our disappointment and frustration inspired the youths to follow behind Prana beeping the horn and laughing until they chased him well out of sight.

Our search for Sama Veda



turned up with no success either but we continued until darkness fell.

At two o'clock in the morning Sama Veda found her way to the gate and was welcomed by our night watchman. He reported that she was relieved and happy to be back and he let her have a long visit with her calf.

The next day we searched for Prana but again with no success.

Three days later Prana found his way back and happily joined his mates in their feeding room. The cow herd men celebrated upon his return.



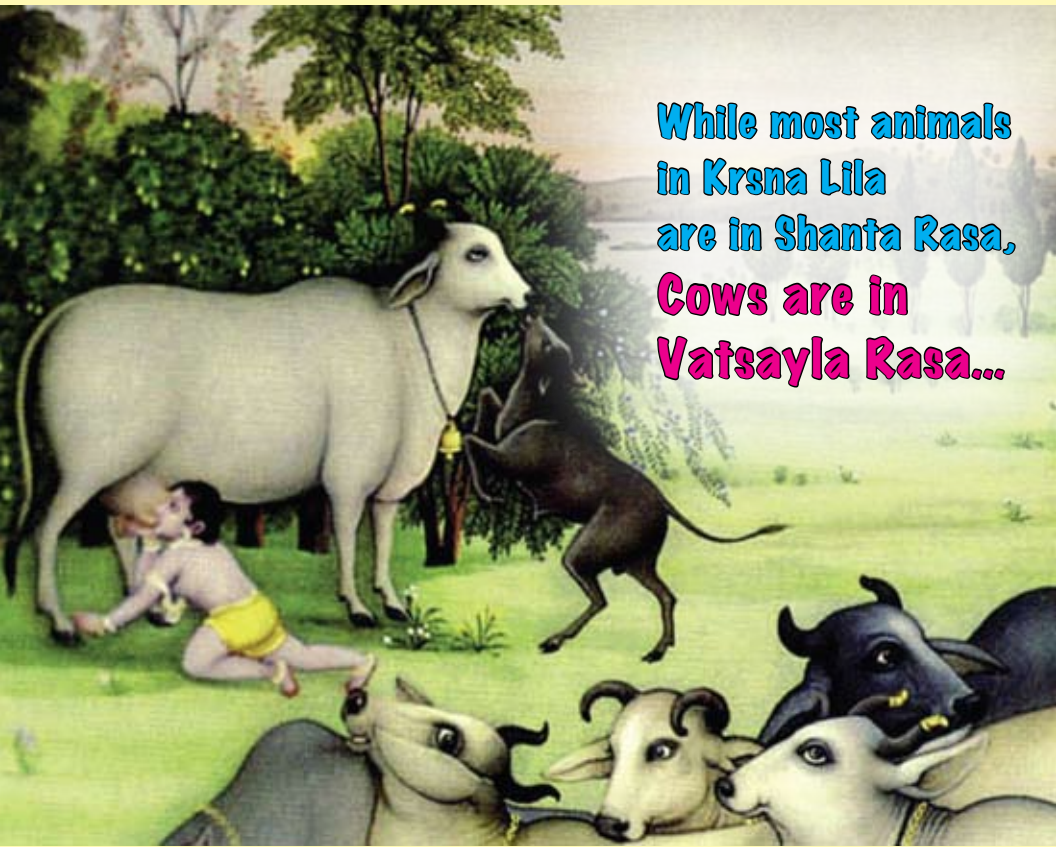
There's no place like home! Prana (left) and Sama Veda reunited with Nila Madhava.

A N N O U N C E M E N T



After nine months of treatment Vinodilal can stand unassisted for fifteen minutes!

DID YOU KNOW?



While most animals
in Krsna Lila
are in Shanta Rasa,
Cows are in
Vatsayla Rasa...

and Calves are in Sakhya Rasa...



VERSES FROM GAVOPANISHAD

*nā kīrtayitvā gāha supyāt
tāsāṁ saṁsmṛtya cotpatet
sāyāṁ prātar namasye ca
gāstataḥ puṣtimāpnuyāt*

Do not go to bed at night without praising cows.
Do not get up in the morning without remembering cows.
Offer respect to cows each morning for by doing so,
human beings achieve strength and nourishment.

*gāvai paśyāmyaham nityam
gāvaḥ paśyantū mām sadā
gāvo' smākaṁ vāyam tāsāṁ
yato gāvastato vāyam*

May I always see cows and may they always see me.
The cow belongs to me and I belong to the cow.
I wish to always live among the cows.

*evam rātrau divā cāpi
sameṣu viṣameṣu ca
mahābhayeṣu ca naraḥ
kīrtayan mucchyate bhayāt*

A person who, either during the day or night,
either in happiness or distress,
remembers or glorifies the cow,
certainly becomes free from all fearful conditions.



Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heartfelt thanks to those who assisted during August 2008

Alessandra Petrassi
Ananda Dasa
Anonymous
Chandramukhi Dasi
Dace Ezermale
David Kasanow
David Thornton
Devala Dasa
Dhruv Singh
Dhruva Maharaja Dasa
Eka Gopi Dasi
Gaurangapriya Dasi
Haimwatti Greenberg
Isani Dasi
Jaganath Rao
Jeffrey Walters
Kamadhenu Dasi
Katha Kanwar
Keshava-Priya Dasi
Kitri & Rita Waterman
Krsnamayi Dasi
Lakshmi Kary
Liliya Toneva
Madhava Dasa
Marianna Polonski

Michael Tarlinton
Mrs. Nirmala Joban Putra
Naval Kisor Dasa
Pancha Tattva & Family
Radha Caran Dasa
Radha Jivan Dasa
Radha Mohan Sevak
Radhapati Dasa
Radhika Desai
Rohinisuta Dasa
Samuthkanta Dasi
Satish Kumar
Sharanappa S. Biradar
Tatiana Leonova
Tejasvi Das
Varun Juneja
Vidyasagar Lokhande
Vikram Chaturi & Family
Vipul Jetly
Vrindavan Vilasini Dasi
Vyasapada Dasa
Vyassadev K. Munidas
Wenda Shehata
William Bertosa
Yashoda Patel

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