

JUNE 2008



CARE FOR COWS

I N V R I N D A V A N

New Arrivals

Meet Vanamali

Our Cows in Vrindavan

Cows in the News

Sunita Update

Vishvambara born to Sita



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,

A young brahmana student sat sideways on the back of a bicycle peddled by an attendant. They stopped at the gate, dismounted and looked into the compound obviously searching for someone they knew. I approached politely to see if I could help but they looked past me as if I was not there.

"Who are you looking for?" I asked quietly.

"Is that her?" the student asked the attendant who replied in the negative, and then looking over my shoulder said, "Our cow is missing and we thought she might be here."

They wouldn't ask directly if we had taken in their cow as they assumed I would lie so they just kept studying the barn yard ignoring me.

"This week we've taken in four calves, but no adult cows." I offered to ears determined not to believe anything I said.

"Are you from Sundrakh?" I asked. The boy shook his head and announced, "We are from Shuddha Bhakti Ashrama. We have a black cow who supplies milk for our daily worship. She didn't return last night from her daily wandering in the street so we're looking for her."

The rude truth: Those who practice Shuddha Bhakti (Pure Devotion) do not allow their sacred cows to wander in the streets eating garbage with the dogs and hogs.

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 ~



~ VANAMALI & EKADASI ~



Meet Vanamali



A young farmer brought his emaciated cow and bull calf to the gate asking us to take them in. His farm had failed and he was forced to move to Delhi to work in a factory. They were a sad looking pair. I asked him the cow's name and he replied that she didn't have one. I took the rope from his hand and he left in relief.

They were starving and the only thing that saved them was their voracious appetite. We named them Vanamali and Samba and they recovered their health quickly. She had arrived pregnant and in due course gave birth to another bull. She had become very strong and assertive and only after determined effort would she allow us to milk her.

Vanamali took a liking to the herd leader Krsna the Padayatra Ox and had a strikingly calming affect on him. She followed him like a shadow



Vanamali upon arrival



Health restored



Vanamali's first son Samba



Her second son Sravana



With Krsna

for more than two years until Krsna left his body on Makara Sankranti of this year.

After bearing two bull calves Vanamali gave birth to Ekadasi in November 2006 and is still very protective of her. This time she was determined not to let the cowherd men milk her and became furious whenever they tried. After a week of struggle we gave up and consequently Ekadasi has become the healthiest calf we have to date as her mother awarded her the privilege of having as much milk as she wants. Today at seventeen-months-old and approaching the same size as her mother, she is still nursing.



Vanamali's daughter Ekadasi



Ekadasi still nursing at 17-months-old



Ekadasi



Vanamali & Ekadasi today



With Krsna during his last months





by Rohinisuta Dasa and Gaurangapriya Dasi

On Nityananda Prabhu's appearance day, Vrindarika Dasi approached me in the Zurich temple asking me to come and have a look at the wonderful pictures of some Vrindavan cows. So I went with her to the guest room beside the temple room where there was a pile of pictures lying on a table. Enthusiastically she showed me one of the pictures amongst many, "Just look, I am also sponsoring one cow there, Makhanchor – a bull. They were all rejected cows who were hurt, and suffered very much; and the devotees from Care for Cows took special care of them."

She introduced me to Richi who was sitting next to the pile of photos. When I saw him I remembered that we had once met before on the way to Vrindavan. But at that time we hadn't any idea what he is doing. I only knew that he supported some goshalla in Vrindavan. At that time we had no plan to investigate the goshalla as we already had many places we wanted to visit during the few days we would be in Vrindavan.

Anyway, now two years later we met again in Zurich temple. I know him as a quiet devotee, not much making a show of what he is doing.

I looked at the pictures and first of all I was impressed with the professional quality and nice images of different cows and bulls. They all looked so extraordinarily beautiful and immediately reminded me of Krishna. "That's how the cows of Krishna and Balarama must look like." I thought. I could take my



eyes off the photos spread out on the table and looked through the whole pile of them.

I then thought to call my wife Gauranga-priya who was among the crowd in the temple room. I knew she especially likes cows and deer. Whenever we passed by a goshalla on the parikrama path in Vrindavan she stopped and wanted to feed the cows. So I told her, "Come here. There is a surprise for you."

She also immediately remembered Richi and enthusiastically looked at his pictures. I left her alone there because I had to go to give the lecture with Paramgati Maharaja together.

When I returned she was still there, her eyes beaming, "Look I took five pictures; these cows are so sweet and wonderful!"

She was so impressed that she thought she would ask Bala Krishna Prabhu, an artist, to do a painting depicting such cows. So the next day she went on the internet and searched "cows" and "Vrindavan", and immediately found a web site named Care for Cows. We were both impressed very much; it was the first time that we saw that something like that is going on in Vrindavan.

Immediately we were inspired to sponsor one cow – we choose Narmada, who had been attacked by dogs. Since Gaurangapriya is very much afraid of dogs she could relate to the plight of Narmada – who was attacked and bitten by a pack of dogs. So, we decided to sponsor her.



After that, we watched the Video clips of the Vridavan cows – five short movies on the Web site. First we were impressed about the activities of the joyful cows there. But when we saw how they looked before and learned about the suffering they

had to go through, we were shocked.

The next day, our neighbour devotee, Samuthkanta Dasi, came to visit and we told her about our new experience with Care for Cows. When she saw the web site, she immediately said, "I want also to sponsor one, let me see!" She chose Vinodilal. Samuthkanta too was very happy and impressed that such a project exists in Vrindavan – organized by devotees. We all thought, Krishna must be very pleased with this seva to cows and Vrindavan.

As we showed the movies to some other devotees, everyone was very much touched and inspired. A few of them together (Bala Krishna Dasa, Govindananda Dasa, Mayapur-candra Dasa and Mahananda Dasa) also decided to sponsor one, so they were assigned Nila Madhava, a young bull.



Samuthkanta Dasi



Vinodilal



Bala Krishna Dasa



Nila Madhava



Radhikaprasad Dasi & Ananda Vrindavan Dasa



Radhika the antelope (Nilgai)



Rohinisuta Dasa and Gaurangapriya Dasi

Before the Gaura-purnima Festival, our dear friends from Moscow, Radhikaprasad Dasi and Ananda Vrindavan Dasa went to Vrindavan. We asked them to visit Narmada and Vinodilal. At that time we still didn't know about Nila Madhava, he came later. They went to Care for Cows two days before their departure from Vrindavan. The last day Radhikaprasad called us from Vrindavan to tell about her impressions. She was very much touched by the Care for Cows Project. She said: "It's a pity that we didn't go there earlier. Had I known it was so nice, I would have gone there every day!"

She told us that they met Shyam Gauri Dasi who was very kind and let them brush Vinodilal for more than half-an-hour. Narmada was a little bit and kept her distance. They also told us about Radhika, an antelope locally known as Nilgai, who received them at the entrance of the goshalla and accompanied them as they visited the other cows.

Before our tour of Russia began Gauranga-priya asked Richi if he could send some pictures so that we could distribute them there at the different places we visit. Everywhere we showed the pictures the devotees were very eager to take not only one, but three or five. The sweetest incident took place in Perm, in the Ural region of Russia. We always with an family of devotees who have three sons. While showing them the photos the each decided to pick out a favourite. One boy is eleven-years-old, the other nine and the youngest five. They were completely captured by the photos. Usually it is not so easy to impress these kids, because they have all possible toys which one can



Cows swimming in the Yamuna



Nandi



Sravana

imagine. But by looking at the cow photos, their eyes were completely shining. The oldest one immediately saw one photo of three cows swimming in the Yamuna and said: "This one I will take. Three cows! Three brothers!"

They looked intently at the other pictures and when they came to the photo of the bull Nandi, all three looked at each other and started to laugh loudly and almost simultaneously said, "That's our daddy!"

I was wondering, why all three in the same moment came to this conclusion and I also studied the photo. The bull's face was wrinkled and somehow he really had the same expression as their father.

Now the nine-year-old son, who is known as the most sensitive of the three, was about to choose. As it was to be expected, he chose a white calf sleeping on the side of his mother. Then the youngest boy looked at all of us and said, "And I will take daddy!" meaning the photo of Nandi.

They immediately went to

their room to hang the photos on the walls above their desktop and bed. The mother told them to wait until she bought frames as the photos are too nice to be hung up just like that, but the boys could not wait.

Those of us who recently heard about Care for Cows are

really impressed and are happy that we can somehow take part in this project. We offer again and again our obeisances to all the devotees who are doing such a wonderful service in Vrindavan Dham and who give also to all others the possibility to take part in it. Thank you very much for it!



Radhikaprasad Dasi & Ananda Vrindavan Dasa visit Care for Cows

A few days before going to Vrindavan this year, Gaurangapriya Dasi and our spiritual master Rohinisuta Prabhu told us that they had sponsored one cow in the Care for Cows project and sent us a link to their web site (careforcows.org).

I should admit that I naturally like cows, but from distance. I like to look at them on the streets of Vrindavan and admire their beauty, but I always had some

hesitation to come closer. I grew up in the city and didn't have an inclination to have close contact with animals.

So, when we were asked to visit the goshalla, I was positive, but not emotionally involved thinking about the visit. Because of that we didn't go to Care for Cows during the first ten days we stayed in Vrindavan. Then when we decided to go we obviously chose not such a good time -

about 2 o'clock, when the sun was burning.

The gate was closed and there were only two Indian men working there. The *riksha-valas* inspired us to open the gate and to enter. Just after when came in, a beautiful harmonious blue cow appeared. As we learned later her name was Radhika - the queen and the head-manager of *goshalla*.



Radhika

She came very near to us and followed us as we explored the *goshalla* in hopes of finding Narmada and Vinodilal (cows, who are sponsored by Gaurangapriya and Samutkantha).

We could see how well the

cows are living in this *goshalla*, how well-groomed they are. It was a very peaceful and nice place. The cows took their midday rest.

We could easily find Narmada, because of her unique ears, but didn't recognize Vinodilal. So we decided to come earlier the next day.

I am very happy that we didn't find Vinodilal at first and that we visited a second time. After our second visit we decided to include Care for Cows as one of the regular places we visit each time we come to Vrindavan and on which we meditate while out of Vrindavan.

So the next day we arrived around 10:30 a.m. and were warmly greeted by Shyam Gauri mataji. We explained that we would like to see Narmada and Vinodilal and take a few photos of them for our friends who sponsor them. Mataji brought us to Vinodilal who was in a pen hosting cows that required special care since his legs were unfortunately broken and he couldn't stand.

We were very surprised how different these cows were as they feel loved and cared for by the devotees. They are not frightened at all and are very sweet and trusting. Shyam Gauri told us that when some cows arrive, because of bad experiences, they don't allow anyone to come near them, but with time they change and become very sweet.

She gave us a brush and told us that cows like very much to

be brushed. It was a unique experience to brush Vinodilal and I think I enjoyed it more than him! I could now imagine why Krishna likes cows so much! It was unforgettable exchange of warmth.

We also met Laksmi Rupa Mataji from Denmark who volunteers her time three or four months each year to help Care for Cows. She massages

those cows who can not move and helps change their positions every three hours.

I regret that we didn't visit Care for Cows from the beginning of our visit and didn't spend more time there. We hope the next time Krishna mercifully allows us to visit the Holy Dham, we will be daily visitors at Care for Cows and get to serve Krishna's wonderful pets.



Vinodilal recuperating from three broken legs

COWS IN THE NEWS



His name is Chilli and he's described as a gentle giant. The bullock stands at 6 ft. 6 in. and weighs well over a ton. Tara Nirula is pictured by his side.

Despite his grand stature, Chilli only grazes on grass and enjoys the occasional sweet as a treat. The heifer lives at the Ferne Animal Sanctuary in Chard, Somerset. He was left on their doorstep at six-days-old.

Nine years on, Chilli has kept on growing, and the staff believe the giant will smash a record for Britain's tallest cow ever. "We have made an application to Guinness Book of Records and we are quite confident he will get it."

Naomi Clarke, manager at the sanctuary, said: "He dwarfs most horses, is the same height as a small elephant and casts a shadow over his cattle companions who are about 5 ft. in height.

"When he failed to fit in a standard cattle cage to have his hooves clipped they realized just how big he had grown compared to normal bullocks."

Miss Clarke said: "People would always comment on how much bigger he was from the other cows and bulls when they visited the sanctuary.

"He does weigh over a ton but is quite lean and not as fat as some of his companions."

She continued: "We don't know what has made him so tall. He doesn't eat that much and his



feet and head are in proportion - he is just very large.

"He is a very friendly and gentle cow so we hope he manages to break the record - he deserves it."

At present, the tallest bovine in the world is 6 ft. 8 ins. Fiorino, who lives in Italy.

A spokeswoman for the Guinness Book Of Records said: "I can confirm that an application

has been received for Chilli which is currently under research."

Six months ago another bullock vying for a record breaking spot was The Field Marshal who weighed in at 3,000 lbs.

At the time he was on course to over take the current British record-holder, his former stablemate The Colonel, who stood 6 ft. 5 in. tall and weighed 3,500lb. He died in 2005.

Apr 7, New Zealand Herald)
— A cow in India has amazed dairy farmers by releasing milk completely unaided. No one knows of any scientific reason for this. All the other cows on the farm in India's Dahod district receive the same food, but Radha proudly proves she can fill a bucket unaided.

Farm worker Manoj Bhargav says: "Whenever Radha is fed she starts milking the same moment. She delivers approximately eight litres of milk each day. I have never witnessed such a miracle."

Radha has been named after the Hindu Goddess of the same name. Her Muslim owner hopes this will strengthen the bond between the two communities.



The cow is worshipped in almost all parts of India - this one is utterly amazing!



Jai Kisor delivers hay by camel cart



Kiran sheds his antlers



Kanhaiya's health restored



Our blind and gentle Sura Dasi nourishes three calves



Janardana sports his new horn ornaments

Feeling the need to establish himself as one of the leaders in the herd, Janardana is challenging several other residents. His sharp horns have been capped with brass tips to render them less dangerous.

One afternoon he insisted in matching strength with several contestants and many spectators gathered at the gate to watch him tangle with Nirmal. Although Janardana is very determined to win the contests, he does not exhibit anger. His intention is not to injure but only to establish himself as stronger. Today he is twenty months old and very healthy. His personality is quite different from his female counterpart Radhika who is more gentle and peaceful.





Madhurya Lila

Madhurya Lila was abandoned and was milling around the weigh station among the several carts of fodder and grass trying to find something to eat. One of our cowherd men was purchasing fodder when he saw her there gaunt and weak with her rear-end plastered with diarrhea. While he was bargaining with a seller, she approached him and tried to nurse from his fingers. He bought a cart of fodder and brought the calf back to CFC.



Raghunath

Raghunath was abandoned in the vicinity of CFC and wandered in the gate looking for something to eat. He is skinny and weak but has a good appetite and is promising to get healthy.



Vishvambara

Vishvambara was born to Sita this month and is happy and healthy. He has been sponsored by Bhaktivinoda and Sri Radhika from Mumbai. He is gentle and his coat is rust colored with white markings.

RIVALS ~

Chitralekha is quite healthy but timid and shy. Her owner is from a local village and brought her here after her mother stopped giving milk. She is traumatized by the abrupt change but is getting adjusted.

Chakra Tirtha was brought here by a local man saying that he had been wandering in his village for months and was constantly breaking into the wheat fields and eating their crops. He is about one-year-old and has been branded with a circular mark on his hip. He has similar facial markings as Raghunath.

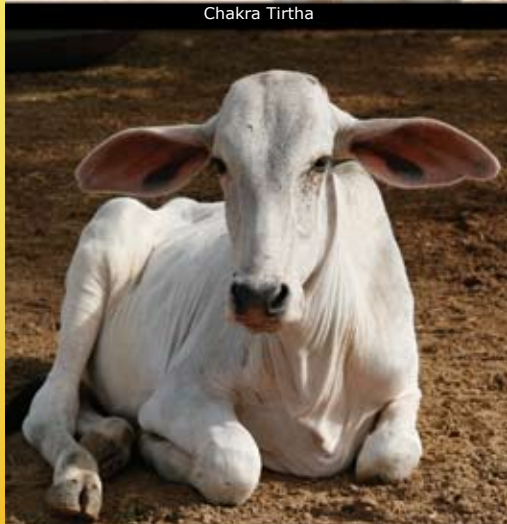
Kelachor is a gentle bull who was abandoned in the vicinity of the fruit and vegetable market. One of the cowherd men was purchasing bananas to feed the herd a feast and the salesman asked him to take the bull as he frequently stole bananas from his shop. He is healthy and well-behaved.



Chitralekha



Chakra Tirtha



Kelachor



Sunita Update

Almost three months ago Sunita was sent to us from Radha Kund with her leg so severely fractured that Dr. Lavania said it could be removed with a pair of scissors.

Initially her wound was treated every day and now every other day and there is stark improvement. Fortunately, Sunita is a very cooperative patient and has a good appetite so there is every chance that the fracture will form into a false joint so the limb will be able to bear some of her weight.

She has been sponsored by Jai and Manjula Shah of the Jain community who have a dear friend named Sunita Haria who has been hospitalized for several months. Since this cow is making such remarkable recovery, they have sponsored her in honor of their friend with the great hope she will also recover promptly.

Though the Shah's frequent Delhi, South India and abroad, they have visited us twice and we are honored to have the blessings of such kind and compassionate people.



Thank You From the Cows



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

Alessandra Petrassi
Ananda Dasa
Anonymous
Candramukhi Dasi
David Kasanow
David Thornton
Dina Sarana Dasa
Eka Gopi Dasi
Elizabeth Stewart
Gaurangapriya Dasi
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Krzysztof Holubicki
Kuntidevi Dasi

Madhava Dasa
Madhu Kiran Ramireddy
Mahanidhi Swami
Manjula Shah
Purnamasi Dasi
Radha Caran Dasa
Radha Jivan Dasa
Radha Mohan Sevak
Radhapati Dasa
Rayan Koendjbiharie
Rohinisuta Dasa
Samuthkanta Dasi
Sanjay Prabhu
Sarla Thakur
Sarva Sakti Dasi
Surendra Shah
T.K. Chaudry
Varun Juneja
Vidyasagar Lokhande
Vishvambara Priya Dasi
Vivek Taneja
Vraja Mohan Dasa
Vyasapad Dasa
Vyassadev K. Munidas

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