



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN



**Belvan, CFC's
Second Home**

Radha Kund Revisited

Go-Smaranam

**More Calves
From Govardhana**

New Year Blessing

Our Winter Range

A Happy Reunion

In December 2005 Caitanya Simha dasa and a friend hired a car to go visit holy places in Vraja. As they drove to the famous Daoji Temple they saw an injured calf laying on the side of the road. Unable to continue their journey they stopped and asked a roadside merchant how long the calf had been lying there. "About a week," he answered. A car hit her and they left her to die."

Her eyes were sunk and she was seriously dehydrated. Filled with compassion, Chaitanya Simha cancelled their program and put her in the trunk of the car and headed to Care for Cows. He then asked what medicine she required and immediately

went to purchase it.

Our medical staff thought that only a miracle would save her but they have learned to expect miracles.

We celebrated when she got the strength to eat; when she could sit; when she could walk; and when her cast was removed.

In January 2007 Caitanya Simha returned to Vraja on his annual pilgrimage and visited Daoji. He was elated to see how she had improved and claimed that she had recognised him!

Cow protection is the key to happiness. Sacrifice something to please a cow and experience how Sri Gopala becomes pleased with you.





New Year Blessing

New Years Day brought our first call for the year – a concerned devotee came to CFC asking if we could help a downer cow in a serious condition at a nearby Babaji's residence.

We set out to collect her and crawled along in the heavy traffic that jammed the busy Vrindavan roads as pilgrims and daytrippers poured into town to start off the new year by seeking the blessings of

Sri Banke Bihariji. Finally we reached our destination and saw the sick cow, sitting on the roadside, an old blue plastic tarp draped over her to keep out the cold. Her home was the residence of a simple babaji whose lean-to made of another old tarp, was visible in the background. He greeted us with a plea to help his cow who had slipped on wet cement one month back, injured her back leg, and could not stand up anymore.

We had a quick inspection of her wounds and prepared to load her on the CFC ambulance, taking the assistance of Babaji and passers-by to lift and carry her. Once our new patient was safely on board we turned out onto Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg to face the madness coming into Vrindavan, but to our amazement there was a clearing in the traffic that allowed us to do a 3-point turn and we sailed down



Lalita Madhava and her caretakers, all living in poverty



Unable to stand, Lalita Madhava is lifted and laid on soft bedding in the CFC ambulance

the main road without any obstacles, to our turn off, and arrived at CFC without a moments delay. We took this as an auspicious sign of Lord Govinda's mercy, who cleared the path for His dearmost *surabhi* cow.

Once carefully unloaded our medical team worked on cleaning her many wounds and pressure sores of the diesel that had been smeared on them. Unfortunately this is a common village remedy to ward of flies and though it works to keep the flies and maggots out, it is obviously detrimental to the wounds. After an hour of the first cleaning the condition of the cow's wounds could

now be clearly seen. Her legs, sides, hips and shoulders were breaking open in pressure sores, some deep and infected. The last 4 inches of her tail bone was stiff and black as gangrene had set in, and would have to be amputated by the vet. She was very weak and smelled of infection.

Her wounds were dressed and covered in cotton wool as bandaging was not practical with the location of the wounds. After some shots for the infection and pain were administered she rested peacefully for the remainder of the afternoon and ate very heartily at 4pm with the arrival of the fresh green grass. She

was propped up in a sitting position for the night and slept comfortably

under a warm, soft blanket.

The next morning the new patient, now named Lalita Madhava, was carefully placed in the cow sling and winched up to a standing position while her legs were massaged and her wounds cleaned. Dr Lavania came to examine her back leg which had been injured in the fall a month ago and confirmed that it was not fractured but badly sprained. He said that her pressure sores would take a long time to heal and to continue standing her in the cow sling for short periods of time and to keep her on soft sand and bedding when sitting.

After dinner that evening Lalita Madhava laid down to rest for the night and early the next morning it was found that she had passed away. Later that morning her Babaji owner came to check on her and helped place her in samadhi. We felt blessed

to have served Lalita Madhava for the few days she was in our care.



Lalita Madhava stands supported in the cow sling to take her weight off her wounds



Large pressure sores on Lalita Madhava's hip and thigh



Syringing diluted iodine to clean deep into a leg wound



On arrival Lalita Madhava rests while her wounds are cleaned and dressed



Her suffering over, Lalita Madhava passes away and is placed in samadhi at CFC

A Second Home for



Sri Lakshmi Devi

On the first Ekadasi in November two calves were born at Care for Cows, the first ones after a period of almost a year. We suspected it was an auspicious omen.

Later that day we encountered Sri Digambar

Naga Baba who has established seven goshallas in his fifty years of dedicated service to the cows of Vraja. After some discussion, Naga Baba offered the use of the goshalla he had built in Belvan to CFC. The



Sri Digambar Naga Baba

Care for Cows



facility is located just one hundred meters from the Laksmi Devi Mandir commemorating the holy forest where Laksmi Devi performed austerities to obtain *darshan* of the Rasa Lila.

After completing some

fence repair and building a water tank, we have begun to move 90 healthy members of our herd there. The facility stands on three acres and has enough out-door feeders to accommodate perhaps 300 cows at a time. It is

equipped with a large storage area as well as a large hall to protect the herd from the elements.

The Yamuna River is about 250 meters away and during the seasons when the flood plains are not cultivated, the



cows have ample room to wander and sit on the banks of the Yamuna. Being so close to the River assures that there is sweet water wherever one bores on the property.

The sanctified atmosphere is typical of the holy places of Vraja. The songs of peacocks, parrots, and koel resound making the atmosphere divine. There are many *kunjas*, or bowers, dotted in the surrounding area creating a very favorable atmosphere for remembering the pastimes of the Lord.

A *yajnasthala* also stands on the property and we plan to perform daily Agni Hotra Yajna with ghee and gober obtained from our herd.



Above: Naga Baba and Van Krsna take an immediate liking to each other.

Middle: Chandrasekara and Sravan are the first to be transported to CFC's second home.

Left: Bura and Bhima were among the first oxen to make the two-hour journey on foot.



Wenda Shehata from the UK will be providing guidance on how to use the ash from the Agni Hotra Yajna for increasing the productivity of the agricultural fields as well for nourishing the many unusual trees in the enchanting surrounding forest.

Our present plan is to keep our injured and recovering residents at our facility in Raman Reti and continue to serve them there. It is not possible to move some of them as they are blind or have amputated limbs. Others have physical problems that require special attention and care.

Dr. Lavania, though retired, has agreed to assist in developing an out-patient clinic at our Raman Reti facility and to provide blood-testing and minor surgery for the cows, bulls and oxen belonging to the local farmers. A small facility for this purpose is presently in progress.



Some of the various bowers that decorate Belvan



When Chandan came to CFC he was frail, diseased and trembling. With only a little hay, fresh grass, and a few grains he has become strong, healthy and confident. Many thanks to all our supporters.

In the Local News

Thieves Loaded the Cows and Police Kept Sleeping – thieves stole cows right near the Police Station

Amar Ujala, 30 Dec 2006

Look at the audacity of the cow thieves. They do not fear the police in the least. Right next to the Raman Reti Police Station thieves were picking up cows on the roadside. Police received this information in time, but look at what the police did – instead of catching the thieves they kept sitting there and they decided that keeping quiet would be better. This happened on Friday morning. Sunil Visvakarma, who works at Care for Cows, has said that if the police were alert then those thieves could have been caught very easily.

According to Visvakarma, in the morning between 4.00am – 4.30am he leaves on his cycle from his home near Hanuman Tila, and from there he goes to Care for Cows in Vrindavan. On Friday morning he saw a Matador filled with six or seven cows. This Matador was going in front of him. Near the Raman Reti Police Station, right in front of Dhanuka Ashram, a cow and a bull

were sitting on the roadside. The Matador stopped there, some men got out, and started trying to load them up. Visvakarma confronted the men but they turned upon him and he somehow fled to the Police Station and gave a report to them. But the police present there, instead of catching the thieves, thought it better to pull their covers up and go back to sleep.

When Visvakarma returned from the Police Station he saw that the Matador had loaded up the cow and the bull and had left. What is ironic is that the road that the cow thieves take is right in front of the Police Station, but those police who are on duty have not tried to stop and search any of these trucks.

Raman Reti Police Officer denied this incident. According to him if anyone had given information to the Police about this, then they would have gone after the thieves and caught them.

Foreigners are Awakening the Devotional Mood for Go-seva

Amar Ujala, 31 Dec 2006

These foreigners have taken up

Indian culture in its true sense. The way this mood has been awakened in them, especially toward the sorry state of the cows, is something that the local people should get inspired by. They cannot bear to see the pain of these cows on the street. That is why they have resolved to serve the cows. The way that they are serving cows at Care for Cows in Vrindavan, Sunrakh Road, is something that should be followed.

God knows what they thought of when they came here, but look at what kind of devotional mood has awakened in them. These foreigners are saying that the Lord can be seen in serving the cows. Kurma Rupa das from Mexico has fully settled in Vrindavan. When he sees the cows on the street suffering and in pain then his heart becomes unsteady. He was saying that the cow was like his mother. Nand Kishor das and Shyam Gauri dasi from Australia are also doing go-seva at Care for Cows.

The goshala has three *nil gais*, or blue cows, out of these three one of them has an amputated leg. There is also a cow with one missing eye. Many baby calves are being bottle fed there.

Radha Kund Cows

In January our friend Dr Lavania, accompanied by the CFC medical team paid a visit to Surabhi Goshala at Radha Kund, the home of Sudevi dasi and her 100 once abandoned cows and bulls, as featured in our CFC Dec 06 news.

After a quick tour around the clean and well organized goshala we started our work of tending to the line-up of patients under Sudevi's care. Dr Lavania's first patient was Chameli, a six month old calf who had joined Surabhi Goshala only a fortnight before. She had been abandoned at Kusum Sarovara and was unable to stand on her own as both her back legs were straight and rigid. If stood up she could balance on all fours but not walk.

Sudevi demonstrated how Chameli's back legs could bend, but only by using great strength was she able to fold Chameli's legs up one at a time, however they would spring straight back down when released. Dr Lavania examined Chameli and said the cause of her problem was that her ligaments were weak and the back legs overextended. To try to correct the problem he set both of her back legs in a slightly bent

position with bamboo splints and plaster casts. Chameli was not in the slightest pain and was casually ruminating all along. After the

plaster had hardened Chameli was picked up and stood supported in a soft sling for her evening meal of fresh green grass. In a month Chameli's casts will be removed and we will see how to proceed then.



Chameli stands supported in a simple sling with both her back legs cast



Chameli's back legs remain straight and over extended. She cannot bend them unassisted.



Dr Lavania casts Chameli's leg, assisted by Sudevi dasi



Dr Lavania bends Chameli's leg which folds completely up, then springs back out when released



A bamboo splint is set in place with a plaster bandage



Both back legs set slightly bent in casts for one month



After a year of multiple casts on her broken leg, Sabari prepares for another attempt to save her leg

Other patients seen by Dr Lavania included Devaki, a cow in a serious condition with a retained dead fetus; Syamala, a cow who had been saved by Sudevi years ago with a face injury who had fallen one month back and split both her back legs at the pelvis; and Sabari, a calf who has been treated for a fractured leg over the last 12 months. Before Sabari

came to Surabhi Goshala she had given up and laid down to die outside a mechanic shop at Govardhan. She was collected on a rickshaw and brought to Sudevi who has spent months trying all she can to save Sabari's leg. Sabari has lost inches of bone from the fracture site and her leg is rubbery and flexes where the bone is missing. Dr

Lavania set the limb in a plaster cast leaving windows to access the wounds for dressing. He hopes that in time the tissue at the old fracture site will become fibrous and create a strong false joint. Sabari will be in the cast for a month and Dr Lavania will check on her progress and attend to more of Sudevi's patients on our return to Radha Kund next month.



A wound at the old fracture site has almost healed



The other side of Sabari's leg



The cast has a hole for wound dressing



Sudevi comforts Syamala who will not walk again after a fall that broke her pelvis

Astha-kaliya lila

Go Smaranam

Meditating on the eight-fold daily pastimes of cows

SNOOZING



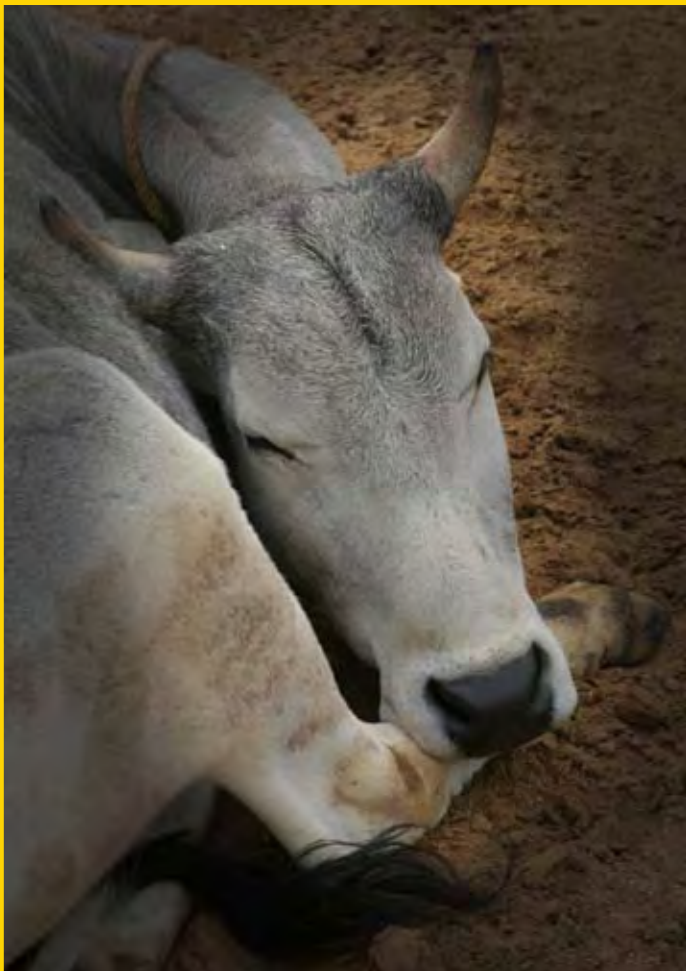
This is the sixth of a series of eight photo essays illustrating the daily activities of cows. We hope this serves to endear them to you.

The most pressing concern for cows is to fill their belly. Once they do that, they may spend a half-hour burning off excess energy but then nature directs them to find a quiet place to sit and begin ruminating. They are known to chew for about eighteen hours out of the twenty-four and to evacuate solid waste about thirteen times in the same period. This may seem easy to do but actually it is a lot of work and they require a lot of rest as a result.

Though cows are known to sleep very little, they spend much time snoozing in order to gather enough energy to begin their next meal. Around 10:00 a.m. each day different members of the herd can be seen laying flat for about 10-15 minutes during which time they enjoy an oblivious sleep. But after that they either snooze or meditate unless a fortunate visitor arrives and offers them snacks.











More Arrivals



This month, Care for Cows greeted four new calves from Govardhana. Accompanied by Campakalata and Padmavati and followed behind by Mayapurcandra on his motorbike, the four calves managed to keep their feet during the grueling nearly two-hour ride. The Care for Cows staff cheered as each calf in turn leapt off the truck and into their new home - first the boys, Krsna and Balarama followed by the girls, Narmada and Saraswati. All four eagerly dug into the bowls of hay offered them.

Krsna and Balarama's coming had been anticipated for some time. Though Mayapur, Campaka and Padma had been feeding them for several months in Govardhana, the changing times had clearly indicated that food is no longer a wandering cow's most pressing need. Scarcity of food is one of the least of the perils cows encounter in present day Vraja. The danger is ever-present that they will be abducted for slaughter. The streets offer perpetual dangers from automobiles, packs of dogs and callous locals. When one day, Krsna and Balarama arrived at the family's home for breakfast with wounds obviously inflicted from a vicious beating, Mayapur and Campaka decided it was time to give them more than just a meal. They needed a safe home.

From Govardhana

Mayapurcandra had picked up little Balarama off the street in July 2006 when he was a sorry sight; his ribs and spine jutted out from beneath his skin and he was covered with filth, scars and lacerations. Though the blistering hot season had just ended, he still hadn't shed his winter coat. Krsna too was nearly skin and bones when he stumbled on Bala eating breakfast one morning. His body had grown too lanky and long for his skinny, wobbly legs to hold. All a cow would have to do is touch Krsna for his back legs to fall sideways causing him to crumple to the ground. A full-body brush down along with a hearty meal convinced him that life with Balarama was where he wanted to be. Now these boys' strong builds and lush, silky fur bare tribute to months of wholesome food and care. And with their arrival at Care for Cows, they need no longer fear the horrors of street life.

The smallest of the group, Saraswati, began her tale one thick, muggy August morning in the same dungeon-like shanty where Radhe Shyama (see the October 2006 story "Abuse in Govardhan") spent the first few miserable months of her life. From the day Saraswati was born, she was only allowed to nurse from her mother for two fifteen-second intervals each day. And like



Above right: Krsna and Balarama;
Middle: Saraswati; Bottom: Narmada

Radhe Shyama, she barely managed to survive. When she was three months old, Saraswati had hardly grown since her birthday. But when questioned by Campaka as to why the calf wasn't allowed enough milk, the owner woman retorted sharply, "She's fine. Her mother is small, so she is small. I wouldn't starve her you know. If she died, her mother would stop giving milk." As Campaka pressed her point, the owner screeched, "We are brahmanas! We don't take knowledge. We only give it."

The result of such "brahmana" style cow care was seen a month and half later when Saraswati meandered by accident one evening to Mayapur's home. She was only four months old, but her mother's milk had already dried up. And she was still the size of a newborn calf. Crusty mange scabs covered her face and ears. The skin under her tail was

raw and sore. And her ear was scraped and twisted.

Noting Saraswati's size and obviously vulnerable condition, Campaka decided to keep her tied until she could be taken to Care for Cows the next day. Meanwhile, Narmada, another abandoned female calf that had come with Saraswati, soon wandered off.

In Krsna's time, the cowherd men (gwalas) of Vrndavan used to surround their herds of cows carrying bows and arrows to guard them against the attacks of wild animals. But no longer is there any such consciousness that cows should be thus protected. When modern day gwalas abandon their tiny calves into the streets, they fail to consider that such small calves are particularly vulnerable to the attacks of wild dogs. Or maybe such 'gwalas' are actually happy to let the dogs do for them what they would otherwise someday do themselves.

Narmada returned the next morning having somehow escaped a brutal dog attack. Her shredded, torn ears were gobbled with blood and numerous bite wounds speckled her small frame. Campaka tried to feed her while Padmavati consoled her. But she would not eat. Within the hour, Mayapurcandra arranged for transport to take her, Saraswati, Krsna and Balarama to Care for Cows. All four are adjusting well with Krsna, Balarama and Saraswati being especially receptive to affection from people. Given Narmada's recent trauma, it is understandable that she'd be more reserved. She still startles violently at the sound of barking dogs. But as with other newcomers to Care for Cows, we expect that her heart will heal alongside her wounds. Finally she and her fellow Govardhana calves have come to a place where the gwalas will do whatever it takes to protect them.

Life in the Streets



While I was grazing in a field a farmer sneaked up behind me and gave me a blow on the hip that left me delirious. I rushed to the side of the road and collapsed. After laying there for several hours the Care for Cows truck happened by and the driver asked the farmer what was wrong with me. He laughed and said I was just resting...

They checked my temperature and in alarm took me to their clinic. After two days I could get up and walk by myself. I would be grateful if you would sponsor me so I could remain here.

Get connected to Vrindavan: Visit our Resident pages and pick a cow or bull to sponsor || careforcows.org/residents

Our Winter Range



Left - Ekadasi, stunning in a fleecy lined red sweater

Below - Padmagandha in a pure wool cardigan, flicked collar, turned up sleeves and fitted belt

Bottom left - Van Krishna's winter jacket worn casually over the shoulder

Bottom right - Kala Krishna in traditional, pure wool, & Gaurangi modeling a light and easy sleeping bag





Sambhu in a woolen blanket, pure silk and wool mix scarf & woolen beanie

Welcome Sambhu

Shambu is a rough unfriendly bull who has been living in the streets of Raman Reti for many years. He is a real survivor. He was often seen snorting and scourging the sands on Raman Reti with his hooves.

One of his distinguishing

characteristics is a large lump on his head which Dr. Lavania says is fibrous tissue resulting from excessive head-butting while warding off challengers in the street.

A few years ago Shambu was hit by a car and suffered an injury to

his left hip and since then has been limping. A kind soul from an *ashrama* on the Parikrama Path has been keeping him fed for several months. Though Shambu recovered from the initial injury, he has not recovered full use of his leg.

This winter, however,



either due to the cold or another accident, he was unable to use his left leg and was practically immobilized.

Initially we kept him at a friend's house in Madhuvana Colony and provided him food with the hope he would soon recover. After two weeks he showed no improvement so we decided to move him to CFC but he resisted. It was a struggle to load him on the ox cart but we finally succeeded.



Now he is making steady improvement and surprising us all by becoming very friendly and gentle.



Did You Know?



It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs, because a cow's knees cannot bend properly to walk back down.

Skin Warts

Skin warts are caused by papovaviruses. Warts are commonly seen in larger groups of calves aged between 6-18 months.

Wart sizes can vary enormously, from 5cm in diameter, in masses spanning a large area of skin - to small, isolated nodules, only just visible above the hair of the skin. Flies and lice may be important in transmission. Most warts resolve spontaneously with age following development of viral immunity. Pedunculated warts may often be

pulled off. Surgical removal may be required, as was the case with Somarasa recently, pictured in the series of images on the right, who had a wart develop on the upper eyelid that created a wound on the lower lid by continuous rubbing.

Topical application with wart removal creams may be effective. If a wart is bumped and lifts at the base it can be tied with suture thread at the base to cut off blood supply to the wart. After a few days the wart will dry up and drop off on its own.



A wart on Somarasa's top eyelid irritates the lower lid



Local anesthetic numbs the area prior to surgery



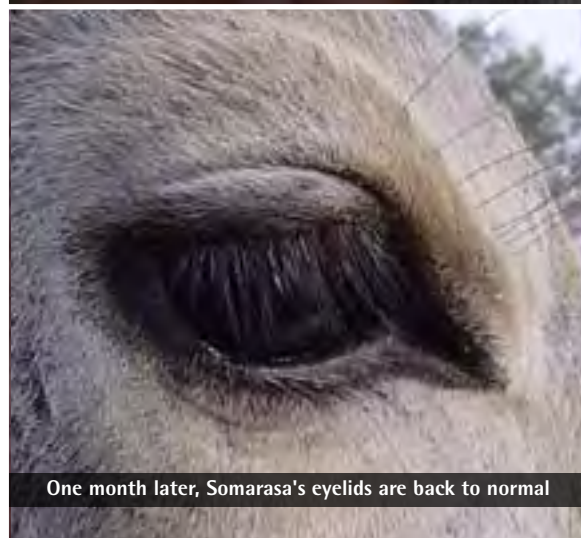
A stubborn wart, knocked and hanging on by a thread, is tied with a string to drop off on its own



Dr Lavania slices off the wart with a scalpel blade



Wart removal creams if applied regularly can give good results in painless wart removal



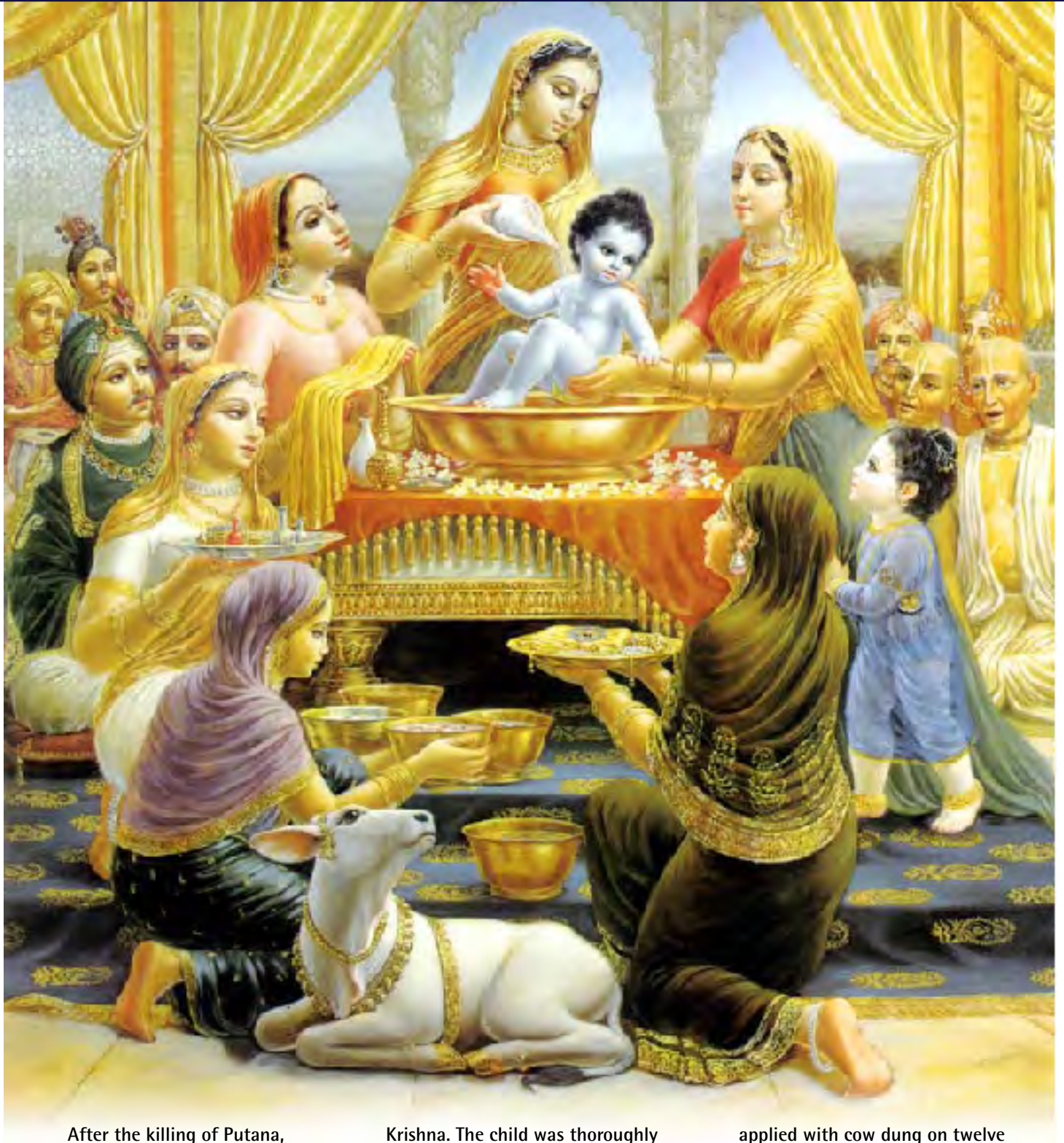
One month later, Somarasa's eyelids are back to normal



My name's Kadamba. I was living on the parikram marg and in my effort to avoid the cars and crowds I wandered into a quiet ashram. I soon spotted some devotees there and begged them for some rotis. They understood my mind and made a habit of feeding me whenever I popped in. It so happened that one of the devotees is a regular at Care for Cows and she arranged for me to come and live here. I fit in fine because I love people and there are plenty of them here to pet me. I also love the hot porridge at breakfast and because I'm scared of other cows they are feeding me separately to make sure I don't miss a meal.

Sponsor Kadamba

Bathing the Lord



After the killing of Putana, mother Yasoda and Rohini, along with the other elderly gopis, waved about the switch of a cow to give full protection to the child Sri

Krishna. The child was thoroughly washed with cow urine and then smeared with the dust raised by the movements of the cows. Then different names of the Lord were

applied with cow dung on twelve parts of His body, beginning with the forehead, as done in applying tilak. In this way, the child was given protection. SB 10.6.19-20

Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heartfelt thanks to those who assisted during January 2007

Ananda dasa, Guatemala
Ananda dasi, Australia
Anil Bhatt, India
Anonymous, Singapore
Bonnie Hamdi, USA
Chaitanya Simha dasa, Dubai
Champaka dasi, India
Daniel Laflor, Denmark
David Thornton, USA
Dhruv Singh, India
Dina Sarana dasa, USA
Eivind Morland, Norway
Frank Lenna, USA
Hanni Wienkoop, Finland
Hemant Ramanna, USA
Jagadish dasa, India
Jhanavi dasi, Malaysia
Karunika dasi, India
Laksman Dasa, India

MahaBaho dasa, Argentina
Mahavirya dasa, Peru
Mahesh Gupta, India
Mariana Polonski, USA
Nalini Gogar, Netherlands
Nilesh Chandode, India
Olga Mainieri, USA
Olga Solovey, USA
PankajVohra, India
Panna Kantilal, Singapore
Payonidhi dasa, USA
Pralitha Dhyani, India
Pranil Bharath, South Africa
Prasana Ceta Dasa, USA
R Gawri Ambal, Singapore
Radha Jivan Dasa, India
Radha Mohan Sevaka, India
Radhapati Dasa, India
Ramesh Singh, India

Rams Entertainment, USA
Rayan Koendjibiharie,
Netherlands
Sanjay Dahia, UK
Sanjiv Verma, India
Sanjiva Maheshvari, India
Santosh Agarval, India
Saranam Olivier, USA
Sarasvati Stien, USA
Shelly Sookraj, Canada
Shirley Prins, USA
Sophia Rubinstien, USA
Spirit of the East, UK
Stella Herzig, USA
Tara Devi Agarval, India
Umesh Sharma, India
Vaninatha Dasa, USA
Venkatesh Raghavan, UK
Vicky Moreland, USA

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