



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN

July 2006



**PVC Cast
Works
Wonders**

**A Change
of Heart**

**CFC Makes
the BTG**

**The Odd
Couple**





Krsna

Part Two

Meeting Vanamali

After the incident with the cart Krsna became so unruly and dangerous that he had to be tied up at all times.

It was risky to even to do that as he would charge or try to bat whoever held his lead rope. He had to eat alone and was aloof to most, and even inimical to some of the other residents who only numbered twelve at that time, most of whom were sick or lame.

I remember once expressing my concern about Krsna's unruliness to Radhapati who responded, "Well, how would you feel if you had been

surrounded by heroic working oxen and offered respect in a new village every day and were now confined to what amounts to a hospital? 'For one who has been honored, dishonor is worse than death.'"

That made sense, so I tried to console Krsna by giving him one-hour grooming sessions each morning and evening. I would begin brushing around his back legs, staying out of range of his horns until he approved, then, I would carefully move forward until I could stroke his massive neck and velvety dewlap. He especially liked

being scratched around the base of his horns, behind his ears and those places he could not attend to himself.

During those one-hour grooming sessions I had a lot of time to think and it occurred to me that what also was required to appease him was an attitudinal change. As he had clearly pointed out, my defect was that I had hoped he would serve me. But since *bhakti* is about rendering service, rather than accepting it, it was required I change my attitude. As I concentrated on providing him what he needed, he slowly started to



become gentle and affectionate. In this way Krsna demonstrated that *go-seva* is a perfect training ground for *bhakti*.

Winter had set in and around eleven in the morning the sun was as nourishing as a health tonic. One day I placed the rope bed near where Krsna was ruminating and lay in the sun on my back to thaw-out and fell asleep. I was soon awakened by something shaking my foot. I looked up to see Krsna using my big toe to scratch the inside of his ear. I leaned forward and stuck my finger in his ear and his eyes widened as if he had become stunned. I wiggled my index finger around his aural cavity and removed a large black ant that had

found his way in there. I could tell Krsna was very pleased by this so I added ear cleaning to our daily grooming sessions in hopes to serve him better.

One day a villager came to the cowshed with a scrawny white cow and her bull calf. He told me that since his farm would not maintain him, he had to move to Delhi to find work and since his aged mother could no longer look after their cow and calf, would I take them in. I agreed and brought Vanamali and Samba into the barn yard to feed them. I placed a basket of fresh grass before them but after a short while, Vanamali innocently went to Krsna's shed and started eating with him. To

everyone's surprise he didn't protest.

I flash-backed to my youth in Mexico where I once witnessed two men trying to evict a furious bull from a corral. After all prodding had failed, they brought in three or four peaceful cows and let them calmly wander around the bull. Their serenity quickly quelled the bull's anger and he peacefully followed the cows as they were led out. So I hoped that Vanamali might have a calming effect on Krsna and began keeping them together in the shed.

During the next several months Vanamali's form started to transform like the waxing moon. Her coat became glossy and as she regained her health, it became apparent to us



that she had arrived pregnant. In due course she gave birth to another bull we named Sravan and took very good care of him.

Despite her motherly duties she continued to bond with Krsna to the degree that today she is like his shadow. Daily after he eats a bucket of porridge, she licks his snout clean and grooms him. When the other cows offer too much attention to Krsna, she becomes jealous and shoos them to a distance. She is very protective of him and doesn't interact with any of the other residents the way she does with him. When she goes into heat she runs from the other bulls and insists on staying with Krsna. While we all know that he likes the attention, very often Krsna acts aloof as Vanamali does her best to attract him.

Vanamali's association has made Krsna so gentle that he no longer requires to be tied, and in time his nose harness was removed and he has become one of the most satisfied and gentle bulls in the herd.



Vanamali with her life and soul, Krsna



CFC Makes the BTG

Hot off the press!!

We are pleased to announce that Care for Cows in Vrindavan made the cover story in the July-August issue of *Back to Godhead* magazine. Written by Braja Sevaki dasi after her first encounter with CFC four-legged residents six months ago, the article features the heartwarming story of Pushpa's struggle for survival. Special thanks go to Braja Sevaki for her continued support to the cows of Vrindavan, and to Nagaraja Prabhu and the team at BTG for such a wonderful presentation. Interested readers may log on to www.krishna.com and find the article in the magazine section, entitled *Until The Cows Come Home*.



PVC Cast Works

In the CFC February newsletter we wrote about Braja who was found in the busy Radha Raman temple area using his fractured leg, bent at 90 degrees, as a support to help him walk about and find food.

Upon arrival at Care for Cows Braja's leg was straightened and set in a bamboo splint and plaster cast by the vet. He advised that because the ends of the fractured bones had already sealed over they would not mend together, but that the tissue surrounding the area would eventually become hard and strong enough to support the fracture site to some extent. However this could take up to a year, with multiple casts.

As time passed by Braja was

showing discomfort using his cast leg, so the cast was removed and upon inspection revealed that his skin was irritated and bleeding (see above photo). Now to treat his skin his leg



had to remain without a plaster cast for a few days, and by the end of that time his leg was slowly bending back out of shape. It also turned out that Braja was an unruly and aggressive patient, who took most of the cowherd men together to corner

and catch every time his leg needed attention. Distressing it was, to think that Braja would have to suffer so many cast changes like this over such a long time frame.

When Braja's skin healed his leg was set in a plaster cast for the second time and soon with the arrival of summer he again showed signs of discomfort. Again his cast was removed to reveal the same type of skin problem as before. It so happened

that Dr Karen from Australia arrived at Care for Cows and we asked her if she could think of an alternative way to help Braja.

"A pvc cast will suit him" she said, and gave us a simple list of materials to collect so she could make it ready.



Wonders for Braja

The pvc cast consists of:

- suitable width and length of pvc pipe – in Braja's case we used a 3 inch wide diameter pipe, judged to fit around the width of his knee which was the widest part of his leg to be included in the cast; and the length required was about 1 foot.
- cotton wool
- gauze bandage
- magic tape
- elastroplast self adhesive bandage

For the assembly Dr Karen first cut the pvc pipe in half lengthwise, as it was only required to fit around the back portion of Braja's leg – this also gave us an identical spare cast which could be prepared in advance for quick cast changing. After the cut edges were smoothed she padded the

inside and edges of the cast with a width of cotton wool, filling out the areas where the thinner part of his leg would go, wrapped a gauze bandage over that a couple of times, and taped it all in place.

When Braja's skin had healed and he was ready for the new cast Dr Karen chose an opportune time when he was peacefully sitting in his favorite spot, ruminating, to casually sidle up to him, cast hidden behind her back, and gave his tummy a rub. Stretching out full length on the dusty ground in great delight, Braja became oblivious to the fact that two cowherd men had moved in to secure him in position. As they continued to rub his tummy, crafty Dr Karen fixed the cast behind his outstretched leg,

tightened it very snugly in place, and fixed it top and bottom with a strip of elastroplast, half stuck on the cast and half on his leg. It was all over before he even knew it.

That was the middle of May and over time we are seeing the advantages of this new pvc cast are vast, offering the same support as the previous plaster cast, but without the side effects over long term use. Now his cast is removed for 24 hours once every ten days, allowing air to circulate and keep his skin healthy. It is light-weight, comfortable, and is easily changed whenever it gets wet.

A new cast can be assembled and fixed within 10 minutes – including a complimentary tummy rub, and minimum stress to Braja.

See Van Krishna's

Last month Van Krishna's wound remained infection free and terrific results were seen in its healing.

As his wound remained clean with very little or no discharge, wound cleaning was reduced to every second day which brought about an encouraging surprise every time his stump was unwrapped, as we all gasped in excitement to see the obvious and positive changes. New skin continues to grow, much faster than reported in the last newsletter, and the area to cover has reduced dramatically.

We are thrilled with his wound progress and if you like, you can take a look for yourself on the following page.



Wound Unwrapped



Outer side stump view - 2 June 2006



Outer side stump view - 9 June 2006



Outer side stump view - 28 June 2006



Inner side stump view - 2 June 2006



Inner side stump view - 9 June 2006



Inner side stump view - 28 June 2006



Rear side stump view - 2 June 2006



Rear side stump view - 9 June 2006



Rear side stump view - 28 June 2006

My son Kevin is a typical 15-year-old American boy who likes skateboarding, MTV, rap music and all the typical entanglements that western kids get into.

His step-Dad Bhagavad-gita dasa and I are members of the Hare Krishna movement and strict vegetarians. Although we have encouraged Kevin to be vegetarian since he was small, the strong influence of his friends and other family members have prevented him from accepting the principle of a cruelty free diet.

In April 2006, we brought Kevin to Vrindavan, India during his spring break to give him an opportunity of a life time. My husband and I didn't have much hope that he would adopt our spiritual convictions, but we knew we could count on him to do the minimum; be respectful while in the Holy land of Sri Krsna.

The potency of Vrindavan and the kindness of Sri Krsna left us amazed. Kevin left the States unhappily agreeing to refrain from his bad habits while in India. Seven days later, he left India a strict vegetarian, with firm conviction that the ultimate goal of life is to serve Krsna by serving His devotees, beginning with a very important service, go-seva.

The transformation started when Kevin encountered the Vrindavan street life, particularly the wandering cows, pigs and monkeys. He was so drawn to the beauty and gentleness of the cows that even the mangiest one would get a pat, a hug or even a kiss from him.

Once, our transcendental tour guide Krsnamayi dasi took all of us to Srila Rupa Goswami's Samadhi at Radha Damodara temple where we sat down to read pastimes and chant.

One beautiful calf sauntered over, sniffed Kevin and plopped down practically on his lap. Behaving just like a family pet, she nuzzled Kevin as he patted and kissed her. He was astonished by the friendliness of this calf with her beautiful brown eyes.

As a child, Kevin had lived on a farm and noted how the cows kept in an adjacent field were fearful and unfriendly. After spending time with the loving and trusting Vrindavan cows, Kevin realized that the fear of the western cows was due to their awareness that humans only intended to fatten them up for slaughter.

Krsnamayi then took us to visit Care for Cows and we became captivated by the beautiful and gentle residents there. Kevin especially loved Krsna, the Padayatra ox, and Ananda the beautiful calf who is quite a princess. Kevin cried

A Change of Heart



Keeping company with a peaceful calf at Radha Damodar Temple



Making friends with Vrindavan's abandoned street cows



Kevin won over by Ananda's gentle nature

upon seeing sweet, gentle Van Krsna, on the day after his injury, when his leg was casted. When Kevin heard Krsnamayi narrate the hard-luck stories of many of the residents, he was moved to tears. We immediately adopted a ginger-colored bull calf they named Giriraj. Kevin was especially attracted to Madhu-mangala, a bull who had lost one leg after being run over by a car and whose forehead smelled just like cotton candy.

Kevin is now back home in the United States but still feels the potency of his visit to Vrindavan and often speaks excitedly about returning. Every day he talks about the wonderful human friends he made there (Radha Charan dasa, Krsnamayi dasi, Gopal Raj dasa, Dhananjaya dasa from MVT, and others), but his strongest memories are of his four-legged friends. He has made a vow to never eat flesh again and tells his friends to do the same.

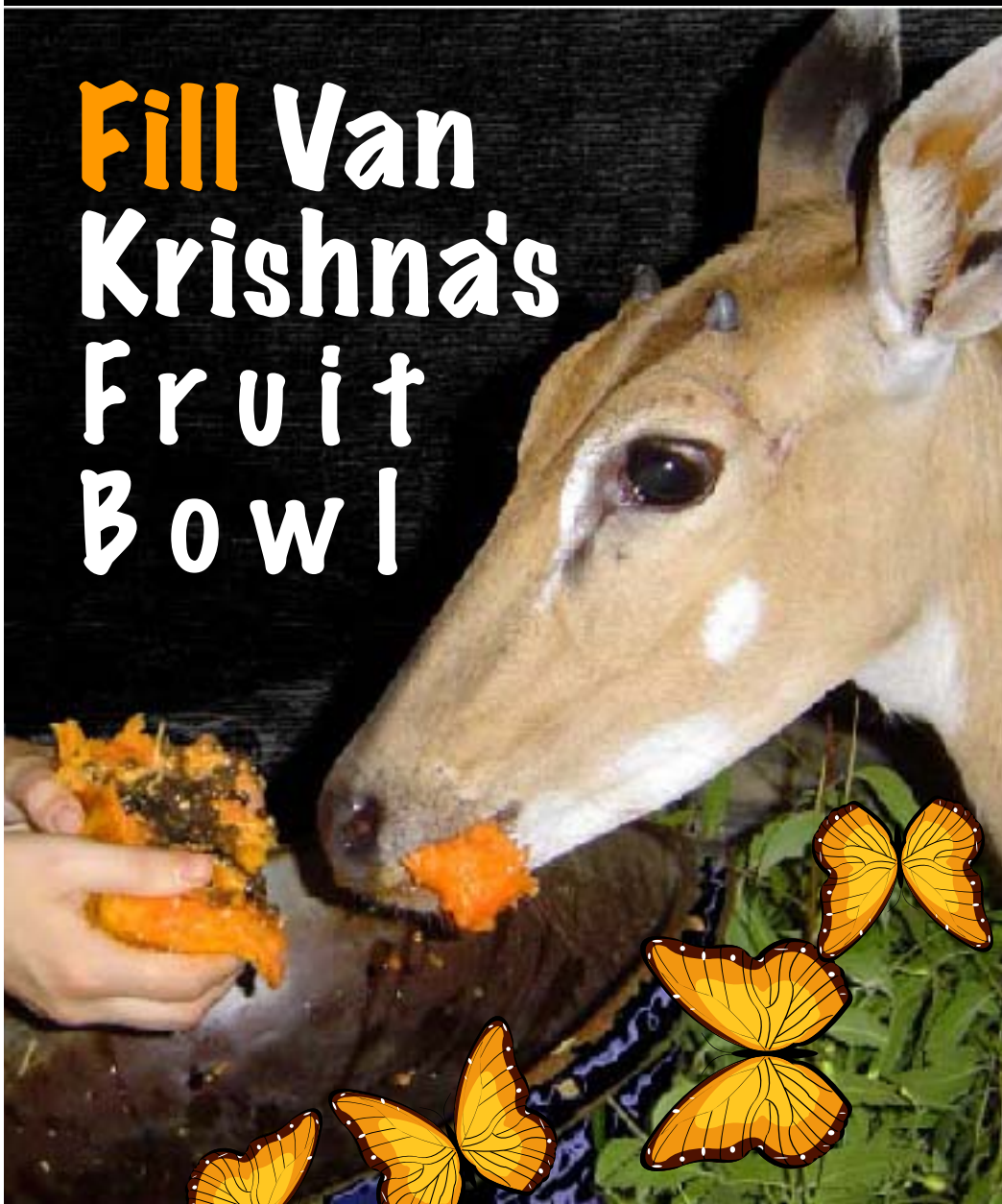
Thank you, Care for Cows volunteers. Your wonderful service has made a huge impact on one teenager living in the United States. Every day he prays to Radharani to allow him to return to Vrindavan soon so he can again spend time with Krsna's cows. All glories to go-seva.

Your servant,

Katyayani dasi (Kathy Fink)

Executive Assistant to Debra Herring, R.N., B.S., M.B.A.
Vice President - Karmanos Clinics
Karmanos Cancer Center
Detroit, Michigan USA

Fill Van Krishna's Fruit Bowl



Your chance to help keep Van Krishna's spirits high with a daily supply of seasonal fruits - his favorites being mango, watermelon, papaya, chiku, pomegranate, apple and mandarin, all loaded with vitamins and minerals essential to his diet. If you would like to be part of Van Krishna's recovery send your donation on-line at www.careforcows.org for "Van Krishna's Fruit Bowl."



A family of squirrels nesting in the trees visit CFC every day, playfully scampering all around the go-sadan



Cows in Kirtan

Prabhupada Stories #7

by Govinda Dasi

While living together with Srila Prabhupada in New Jersey, we would have kirtan, just the four of us or if guests came from New York we would also have kirtans and Srila Prabhupada would talk. He was recovering from the stroke, so he

would not give regular lectures as before when we were in New York temple but he was always eager to talk about Krsna to whoever would listen. So while sitting on the sofa one day, Srila Prabhupada began talking about kirtan, and he began to demonstrate the different ways to play kartals.

He taught us the basic ching-

ching-chang and other beats as well; we sang "Govinda jaya jaya" and Srila Prabhupada began to play the kartals exactly like the sound of cow hooves running. I was amazed. Then he showed me how to do it - slowly and carefully so that it is in perfect timing with the regular kirtan; yet it sounds exactly like cow hooves running across the fields.



The Odd Couple

Radha Caran and Krsnamayi had been keeping an eye on two calves scavenging on the Parikrama Path for the last few months.

Both had injured limbs and were struggling to keep their hunger from consuming them. Hardship is known to bring people together and they noticed how this principle had worked to bond the small red bull

and the larger female calf together.

Since Syam, our 600kg ox had expired, Radha Caran knew there was room for more residents, so after getting confirmation from the people in the area that the odd couple had no owners, they loaded them on our rickshaw and brought them home. Their arrival brought smiles from the cowherd men who were especially

charmed by the small bull's buck teeth. We immediately removed their old bandages, dressed their wounds and placed the female calf's old broken leg in a temporary cast and made an appointment to have their limbs x-rayed the following day. They settled down together for the evening after one big bowl of porridge and another of green grass.



Cleaning dirt and debris stuck on and around his flesh wound



Her fractured leg painfully bends outward



Nutritious food at last for a sore and sorry pair



For centuries pure cow's ghee, or clarified butter, has been used in temples and households throughout the land of India.

Ghee is a necessity in temple deity worship for offering ghee lamps, abhishek, meticulously prepared vegetarian food, and an unlimited varieties of sweets. In ancient times copious quantities of ghee was also required for the huge vedic sacrificial fires.

At home, ghee is used as a luxurious substitute for cooking oil, and sensational drizzled on hot rice.

Preparation

450g cream makes approx 340g ghee

Cooking time - approx 1hour

Using a heavy based pan, heat the cream on a low flame. Stir occasionally until cream thickens and starts to bubble. Keeping the flame as low as possible, stir continuously until the thickened cream transforms and separates into a white solid mixture and golden liquid ghee.

Continue to stir gently and allow the solid mixture to gradually turn into golden brown crumbs, simultaneously increasing the

quantity of ghee. Do not allow the crumbs to burn.

At this stage the ghee will become very frothy. Remove pan from the flame and immediately strain the hot ghee through a fine steel strainer into a steel bowl and allow to cool to room temperature. Bottle as desired.

Hints

- for best results and more ghee yield beat cream in a food processor prior to heating
- ghee does not require refrigeration and can be stored for months

Liquid Gold Cow Ghee



Golden liquid ghee separating from the cream solids



Straining the liquid through a fine sieve



Ghee can keep for months bottled in an airtight jar

Syam's Last Days

Syam was one of those long-legged white oxen you see hauling sand and cement on the main streets of Vrindavan.

We don't know how long he worked but most oxen start around three-years old. Shortly before he came to us he was apparently side-swiped by a vehicle and lost his right eye and injured his right leg to the degree he could no longer work. We estimated he was about 16 years-old at the time.

His owner contacted a friend of Care for Cows and arranged to retire him here. Syam was much larger than our other residents and our cowherd men referred to him as "bahut siddha"... very gentle and obedient. Even with his limp leg he

could easily overpower other members of the herd but he never asserted himself. He had no aggression and the other residents sensed this.

Several of our injured calves used to gather around and sit with Syam. Gopi thought he was her mother and would often try to nurse from him and, though obviously uncomfortable, he would tolerate. He was like a shelter to Pushpa, Braja, and Karna who would regularly sit beside him and ruminate.

One day he lost all interest in eating and drinking and sat peacefully showing no interest to get up. All coaxing made no difference. It was as though he knew his time was up. He was too heavy for all of

us put together to lift but we managed to turn him on his other side daily. On the fifth day we arranged a structure above him so we could hoist him up with hand pulleys. He was weak but drank three buckets of water and we were hopeful that he would make a come back. But the next morning he was weaker and left quietly about ten in the morning.

Four men dug for two hours in the summer heat to make a suitable grave for him. We offered him a *harinama chadar*, *maha-prasada* flowers, tulasi, Ganges water, our gober dhoop and after circumambulating him three times, we all showered his form with the cool Vrindavan sand.



Retired in 2005, Syam spent his last months at CFC



Dr Chandrashekhar administers a dextrose drip



Syam the gentle giant, placed in samadhi at CFC



Around the Goshala



Constructing a frame around Syam + top photos

The heavy weight of Syam in the cow sling is steadily winched up

Massaging Syam's legs to help restore circulation



Constructing a new feeder around the side of the warehouse to accommodate more cows



Paving the newly filled and packed soil in the cow's yard



Make hay while the sun shines - another busa delivery to keep in store before the rainy season



Cooling down with a refreshing bath



A bamboo barrier protects a freshly bricked wall broken by bulls at play



CFC staff caught in the early rainfall

Life on the Streets



In various places the Vedic scriptures recommend that one never travel alone.

The reason is that in the event one falls into misfortune, there may be no friend or relative to help. If one is robbed in a foreign place for instance, he may have great trouble finding support; or worse, if one falls

ill, there may be no one to nurse him.

To fall ill while in a foreign land and have no one to nurse you is bad enough. But worse is to fall ill in your own home and have no one offer assistance. Such is the state of the abandoned cows and bulls in Vrindavan. Though they are at home, there is a lack of resources and

concerned people to help them when misfortune strikes. This healthy young bull for instance, having no shelter, wandered the streets in the blazing sun, became delirious and collapsed from heat stroke. He lay unattended for sixteen hours before we were called to help. Though we tried our best, it was too late.



Hosing down to reduce body temperature



Keeping his head cool with a damp cloth



By 4pm fluid is administered in an IV drip but he passed away 12 hours later

Thank You From the Cows



**Thank you to all the go-sevaks
who contributed last month
towards Sponsor a Cow, Feed the
Herd for a Day, Van Krishna's Fruit
Bowl, Medical Supplies, and
general donations.**

Rakesh Agarval, Mathura
Gopal Raja dasa, Vrindavan
Isani devi dasi, Netherlands
Dany Laflor, Denmark
Anonymous, Singapore
Gaura Arati, NZ
Nalini Gogar, Holland
Dhruva Maharaja dasa and Syama
Priya dasi, Vrindavan
Katyayani dasi and Bhagavad-gita
dasa, USA
Vane, Maria, Abhay and Prasanna
Ceta dasa, USA
Braja Sevaki dasi, Mayapur
Vraja Mohan dasa, Mumbai
Nandini devi dasi, Puerto Rico
Shiv Sharma, Canada
Sophie Rubenstien, USA
Advaita Prabhu dasa, USA
Hani Weinkoop, Finland
Kanayo and Family, Canada
Jennifer Olson, USA
Dwijja Raja dasa, Nepal
Pallavi Menon, UK
Marianna Polonsky, USA
Dina Sarana dasa and Family, USA

Ananda dasa, Guatemala
Sacimata dasi, USA
Eivind Morland, Norway
Aravind Mohanram, USA
Anand and Charanya Chander
Subramanian, USA

Special Thanks

Recently we received a letter from Neelam Kumar, the mother of 31-year-old Rajan, who suffered from a bipolar disorder which led to his suicide. For months after her son's death she had been contemplating what to do with the balance left in his bank account. After finding out about Care for Cows she decided to use the funds to sponsor a cow on Rajan's behalf and picked Chitra who joined us on Rajan's birthday. Neelam has faith that cow protection will bring Rajan closer to the Supreme Lord.

I was struck by how perfectly her noble gesture demonstrates the selflessness of maternal love. Never mind that she had labored hard to bear him; never mind the frustration and disappointment endured by

witnessing his unhappiness; never mind the social embarrassment caused by his drastic act; never mind the emotional pain; never mind the feelings of failure that accompany such a tragedy; never mind the loss of hope that he might maintain her during old age. Bearing all that, she consistently desires his welfare. Indeed, maternal affection is the only thing in this world that can compare to the love Krsna has for us conditioned souls.

The Vedic scriptures consider the cow as our mother primarily because we drink her milk. But those who properly tend cows know that they certainly express motherly affection toward all who provide for them. Neelam's gesture of offering her son's savings to maintain Chitra is tantamount to connecting him to a second well-wishing mother; a mother who is dear to Krsna and thus one who's desire will most certainly be taken into account. May all this bring solace to Rajan.

"When a man wants to murder an animal, it's called sport, when the animal wants to murder him, it is called ferocity."

- George Bernard Shaw, playwright, Nobel Prize 1925



CARE FOR COWS IN VRINDAVAN

Last summer this little calf was sighted several times at Chaitanya Bihar, once open pasturing grounds, now subdivided congested plots of land for sale. She was always alone, standing motionless in the heat, her head hung low with nothing to eat or drink. She was covered in ticks, had diarrhoea, patches of hair loss, and her injured ear was dripping blood. Unable to tolerate her distress a kind soul fed her a cool watermelon and arranged for her admittance and ongoing maintenance at Care for Cows - a simple act which turned her miserable life around. For information regarding Care for Cows Land Fund, Sponsor a Cow, Feed the Herd, or to make a contribution on-line, please visit www.careforcows.org or email kurmarupa@careforcows.org

Providing shelter, food and care for the abandoned cows in Krishna's holy land



Six months after her arrival Manjari is surrounded by inseparable friends - especially Gulab right



Today Manjari's health and self esteem are totally restored