

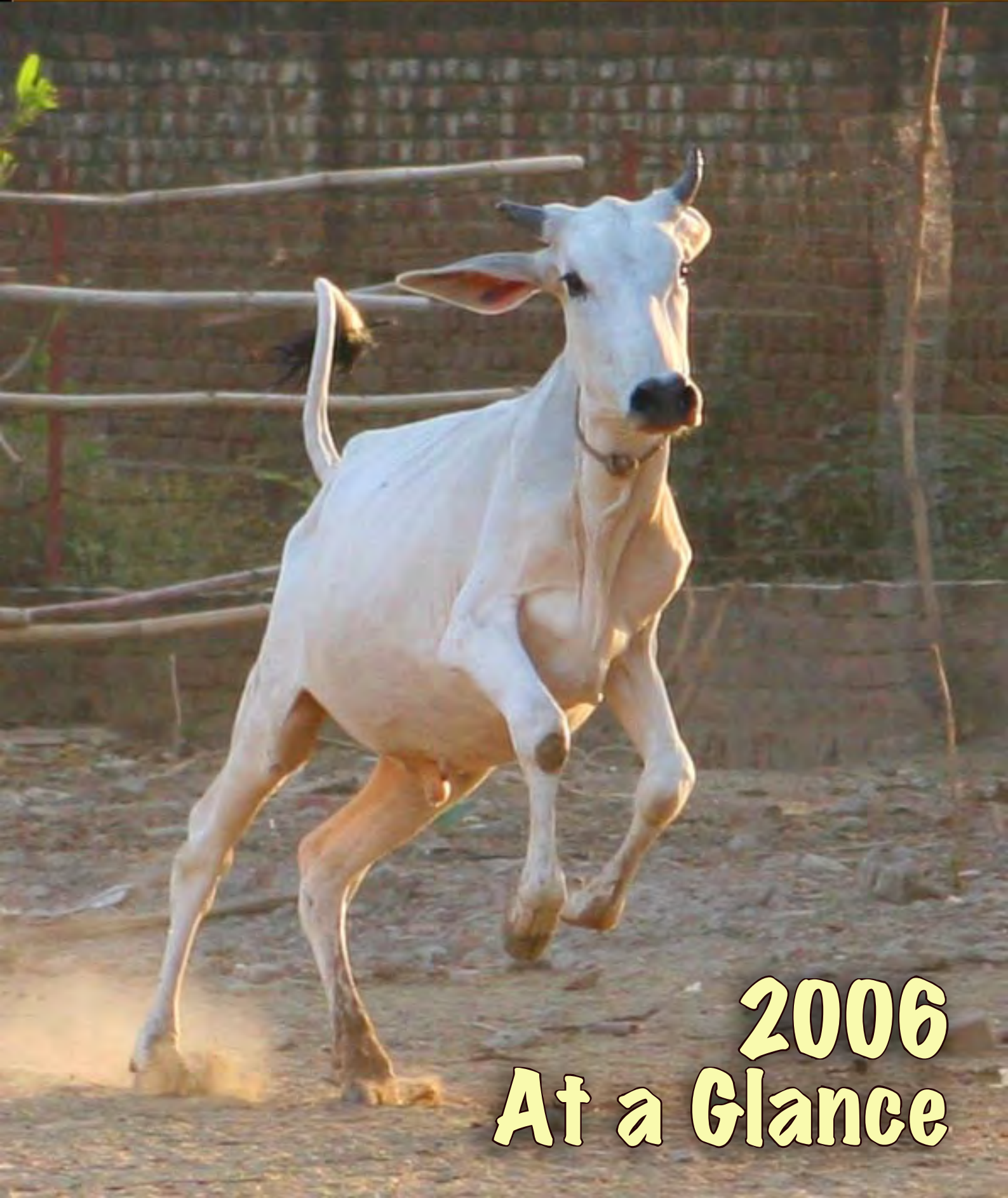
Special Edition  
Dec. 2006



# CARE FOR COWS

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## IN VRINDAVAN



**2006**  
**At a Glance**

# Farewell 2006

**As 2006 comes to a close we are reflective on the events taken place during the year and offer our whole-hearted thanks to all of Care for Cows supporters from around the world.**

Together we were able to offer a home to 51 abandoned cows, bulls and calves this year! With your continued support we are looking forward to and

preparing for an even bigger year in 2007.

In itself, caring for neglected, diseased and injured cows is a fulfilling, rewarding service - but it does not come without losses. In this Special Issue we celebrate the lives of those whom we were able to help in 2006 and remember those dear to us whom we lost. A collection of their stories follows. See you in 2007!





2006

Admissions

# Total saved 51



Gulabi



108



Ashvini & her mother Rohini



Chandi



Sneha



Mini Nandi



Ghanasyama



Chanchala



2006

Admissions

# 10 car accidents



Gaurangi



Sakhi Vrinda



Braja



Kala Krishna



Kunja Bihari



Gauranga



Gauri Priya



Vidura



Tungavidya



2006 Admissions

# 10 health crisis



Varshana Ratna



Davanala Devi



Kanchana



Janardan



Karna



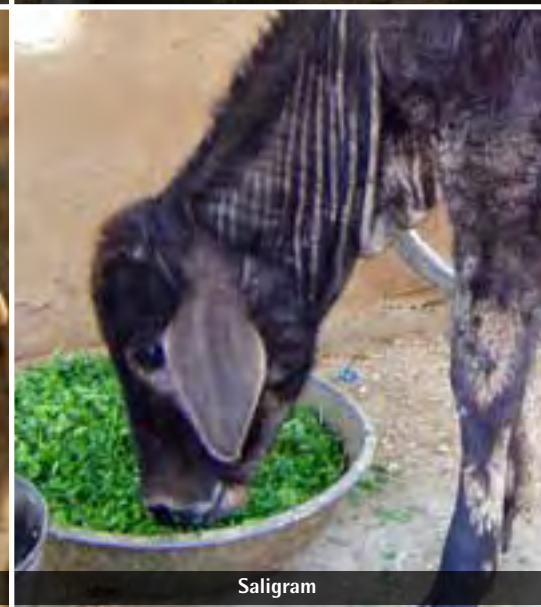
Sanjivani & her son Jiva



Gopi



Radhe Shyama



Saligram



2006

Admissions

# All 51 homeless



Pradyumna



Lav



Kush



Isvari



Giriraj



Janmastami



Subhadra



Radhika



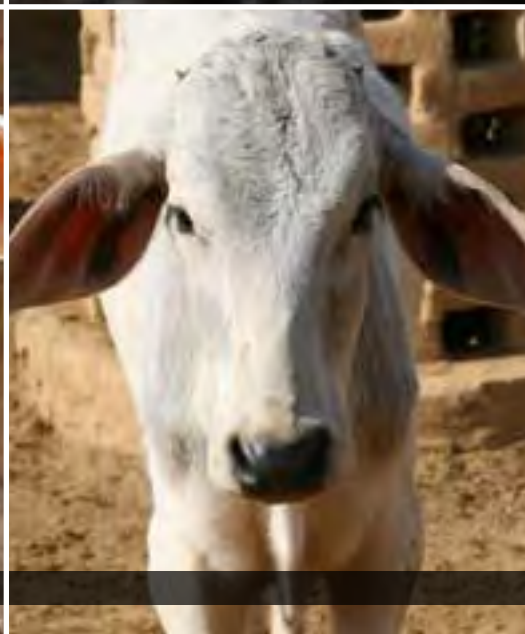


2006 Admissions

# And 4 born at CFC



Ekadasi, Padmagandha & Belvan born at CFC







# Sandwiched between

**Despite dense darkness, pouring monsoon rain and pockets of water on the road, a driver — thumb on the horn, foot to the floor, headlights on dim — sped his jeep towards Chattikara for reasons unknown.**

Upon penetrating a large puddle, a wave of water completely covered the windshield blinding him further.

The rain pounded hard on two homeless calves who scurried about in search of high ground in the dark muddy fields bordering the road. Happening upon the road they felt relief to have found solid ground beneath their feet. However, their relief was short-lived.

Before the windshield shed the water to the degree the driver could see the road, the

jeep struck something and the driver pulled over to see what had happened. He sadly discovered he had hit the two calves.

The one who took the full brunt of the impact was sent into a bulldozer parked on the side of the road, the other into the muddy field from whence she had come. In the pouring rain the driver tried to find some shelter for the one



impaled on the large teeth on the bucket of the bulldozer; the other, he could not find.

The one lay practically



Bulldozer teeth-marks on back

lifeless enduring the heavy rain until the morning when the driver contacted Dr. Chandrasekhar who attended to the 8 x 6 inch gash on her back and the many other mud-filled wounds all over her body. She could not get up and could barely sit. The frantic driver, very concerned over his negligence, vowed not to eat until he had found shelter for the calf.

He went to four nearby goshallas but none would

take her in. Dr. Chandasekhar suggested Care for Cows and the distressed driver arranged for her to be carried here by ox cart. Dr. Chandrasekhar, Dr. Karen (via email), Syama Gauri dasi, Pavan, and Syama Hari took up the challenge to save her. They nick-named the calf Gulabi as she resembles Gulab, a young bull we took in last year with a broken leg.

The driver of the jeep, being relieved that Gulabi was in capable hands,

# a Jeep & Bulldozer



Severe swelling / multiple lacerations



Gash on leg above; broken tail below



departed for his village to feed the brahmanas rather than offer to offset her medical expenses. But Lord Gopal, who resides within the heart of everyone, being dedicated to protecting the cows, inspired Mr. Pradipta Chatterjee and Pranesvari dasi, from different parts of the world, to contribute towards Gulabi's medical expenses and sponsor her maintenance.

Upon arrival Gulabi was completely swollen and was not comfortable in any position. After injections to relieve pain, reduce swelling and prevent infection she experienced some relief. Besides the huge gashes on



**Please drive  
carefully when  
you come to Vraja**



her back, other complications were deep gashes on her posterior, a broken tail, and several wounds on all four legs, some of which reach the bone. Our greatest concern was the blood oozing from her nose indicating a lung injury. That was attended to first.

After twelve days of intensive care, Gulabi was showing steady improvement.





Her wounds were cleaned daily and she was hoisted up for a few hours to keep her legs from going numb. She had a great appetite so we had all hope that she would recover.

After twenty-one days of steady improvement Gulabi suddenly became weak and began wheezing. Her bodily temperature dropped and the flesh around her wounds turned dark. Dr. Chandrasekhar recommended a saline drip and penicillin. We administered the drip and she became very peaceful. We covered her with a blanket hoping to raise her





temperature. While adjusting her pillows we heard a rattling in her throat as she exhaled. *Srimad-Bhagavatam* denotes this as a symptom that death is near. A few minutes after this, she peacefully departed.

All of the devotees who had served her so diligently were sad that they could serve her no longer but relieved that her suffering had ended.

We immediately selected a place for her grave and offered her Ganges water, incense, *mahaprasada* flower garlands and a *harinama chaddar*. Gulabi wore a most peaceful gaze as she was covered with the cool sands of Raman Reti.





# Life off the Streets



I wandered into what used to be a pasturing ground to discover it had become a farmer's field. I started to graze as before but was soon hacked on the back with an axe. Real hard.

The farmers I used to plow for now take me for an unwanted criminal.

We need shelter.

Donate to the Care for Cows Land Fund





# Polythene - Cows'



Ready for a trip to the Mathura Veterinary College



During a physio therapy session



Dr Lavania slowly administers magnesium iv



**Gokarna has been at CFC for nine weeks and most of that time he's been in need of medical care for various illnesses.**

Featuring in the August CFC newsletter with his recovery from a long night of seizures and fits, Gokarna became stronger and mobile over the next few weeks. But then one day he could not stand on his own properly and he would fall down if another calf brushed by him.

Gokarna was taken to the Mathura Veterinary College for a check up and doctors suspected there were foreign objects in his rumen, most likely ingested polythene bags, that cannot be passed out of the system, and cannot break down on their own. Discarded plastic bags are a major health hazard for cows rummaging through rubbish heaps in Vrindavan.

Surgery was suggested to remove

the foreign objects, but it was not advisable until Gokarna recovered more strength to bear the stress of an operation. Meantime blood tests were run and Gokarna was thereafter treated for a blood infection shown up in the test results.

Dr RP Pandey of Mathura Vet College set up a week long program of dextrose drips, vitamin and mineral shots and digestive tonics to help Gokarna regain strength. Pavan, one of CFC medical assistants, took up the responsibility of Gokarna's full time carer, administering his medication, assisting him while standing up three times a day, physio twice a day, passive exercise, massage and feeding. After the week long effort of supportive therapy, Gokarna's condition was much the same and surgery was again deferred by his doctor.

For four weeks Gokarna and

Pavan continued with their daily routine, and Dr Lavania took on the challenge to try and save Gokarna, coming to the goshala almost every day to monitor and treat him.

Some days Gokarna was down with fever and too weak to stand, then other days he seemed brighter and had renewed strength and a good appetite, which gave us all hope. After one month of trying practically everything, and seeing Gokarna's deteriorating condition, doctors advised that he may not recover. Dr Lavania commented that if it were not for the love and care Gokarna was receiving, he would not have made it this far. The doctor advised that now surgery was Gokarna's only chance of survival.

His surgery is scheduled for early October, and meantime he's on a booster program so he will have the maximum strength for recovery.

# Manmade Enemy



Tucked in for the night, Gokarna rests peacefully



An emblem of courage and determination



# 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



# Against All Odds

Kala Krishna was abandoned and hit by a car in a narrow, congested street at nearby Sant Colony.

He was dragged to the side of the road and there he lay for two weeks unable to get up as both his back legs were broken. A pujari from a nearby temple noticed him and brought him into Care for Cows. Upon arrival his wounds were cleaned and dressed, and anti-inflammatory pain relief injection administered. Wenda, a go-sevak visiting from the UK administered Rescue Remedy drops to Kala Krishna for stress. That afternoon Dr Lavania gave Kala Krishna a thorough examination and confirmed that the back left leg was not actually dislocated at the hip, but rather the bone

had snapped at the hip, leaving the ball in the hip socket. His back right leg had a large infected wound at the fracture site where pieces of bone were also exposed.

The doctor gave instructions on how to proceed with Kala Krishna's medical care and continues to check in on him every few days. Wenda commented that she was amazed how helpful our vet was, as in her experience many vet's in the west would never even attempt to help such a case, rather they would enforce euthanasia.

Once Kala Krishna's leg wound has healed the fracture can be cast and the hope is that

this will become his stronger back leg, on which he can put some weight, which will allow us to stand him for short periods of time in the cow sling. The doctor advised that even with all going well, the other back leg may take possibly one to two years to mend.

Meantime as the days cool down in Vrindavan, Kala Krishna is getting lots of rest, massage and light physio out in the healing morning sunshine, and at night he is rugged up under a warm blanket, on a soft mattress in the recovery ward, shared with

Gaurangi, who is also recuperating from a recent car accident.



Kala Krishna (above right) in good company with his look-alike friend Pushpa





Arriving on a flat bed rickshaw, a fortnight after his accident, Kala Krishna is stressed and in pain



Sugar packed on the wound gives fantastic healing results



An old bandage is removed to reveal a badly infected wound, covered in a half inch layer of pus



Dressing with a wound pad and gauze bandage



Daily wound cleaning is carried out, starting with flushing the wound with lots of diluted iodine



Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory injections are given





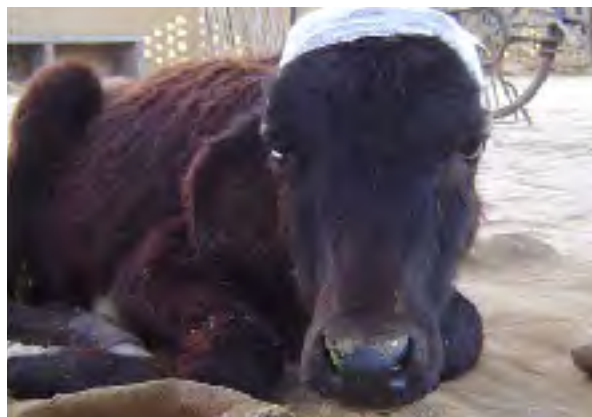
# Dharma's Plight in

**It is not easy to be a bull in Kali Yuga, not even for one born in Vrindavan. As I wandered in search of food, I felt invisible... no human eyes would behold me, or if they did, they wished they hadn't.**

I had been put on the street by an indifferent owner, and though it was tough, I somehow managed to survive despite my small stature. One day my ear was injured and that made things more difficult, as I now not only had to battle it out for my quota of food, but I had to tolerate flies constantly swarming around my head and hundreds of maggots crawling in my ear. With blood, pus and other fluids constantly draining from my ear and matting the hair on my shoulder,

I looked a mess and smelled like death personified.

In this condition I started to ponder: The Vedic scriptures state that the bull is Religion personified.



They also say that in the present age man's good qualities diminish and consequently religious behavior is practically eclipsed. They go on to express that human intelligence degenerates and becomes covered by ignorance to the degree that religion

is perceived as irreligion, and irreligion as religion. As I wandered aimlessly it struck me that I was living proof of these statements.

Out of the hundreds of people walking in slumber in the streets where I roamed, one walked with his eyes open and was shocked to see me. I had seen him before though he had not noticed me. By his startled and clear gaze I could tell he was one who had penetrated the veneer of illusion

that covers this holy place and was able to see me as an all too graphic portrait of Kali Yuga. He knew I was in trouble and was compelled to do something.

A few hours later, he and two others loaded me on a rickshaw and





# the Holy Dhama

took me to Care for Cows. When I arrived the cowherd men approached to unload me and though repulsed by the stench of my rotten ear and the foul discharge dried on my shoulder, they laid me down and two of them started cleaning my wound while

others brought disinfectant and other medical necessities. While four hands picked the maggots out of my ear, several fingers combed through my coat to find thousands of feasting ticks. It had been a while since they had seen such a sad case.

After patching me up they scrubbed me thoroughly and let me eat to my full satisfaction. Above you can see by the healing that has taken place, that I am in good hands. Now I am evidence that some places are keeping Kali Yuga at bay.



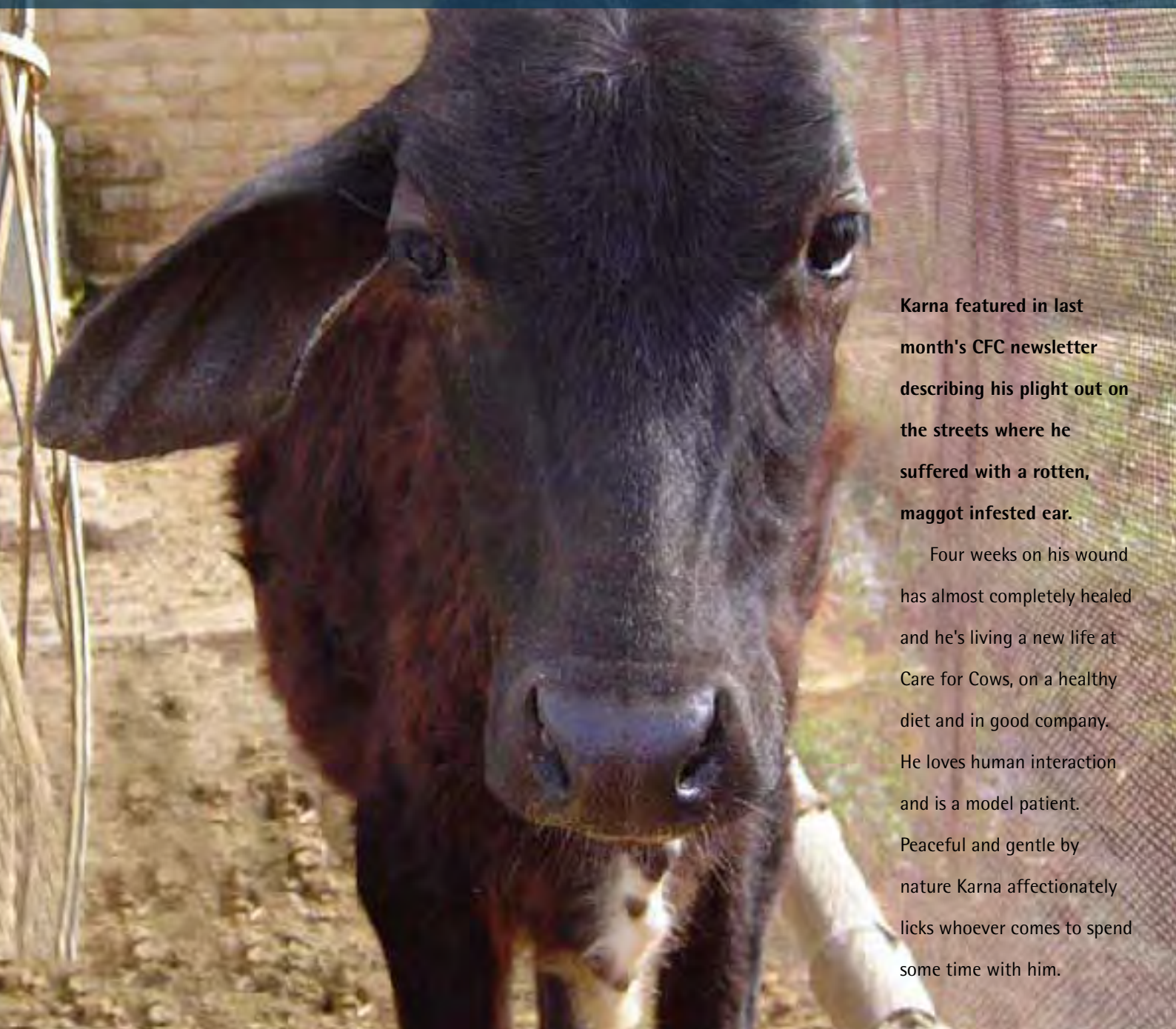
Dr Lavania removes dead tissue from Karna's wound



Infested with maggots and ticks, Karna receives medical treatment, a relieving bath, and then a big breakfast



# Remember Karna?



Karna featured in last month's CFC newsletter describing his plight out on the streets where he suffered with a rotten, maggot infested ear.

Four weeks on his wound has almost completely healed and he's living a new life at Care for Cows, on a healthy diet and in good company. He loves human interaction and is a model patient. Peaceful and gentle by nature Karna affectionately licks whoever comes to spend some time with him.



Karna's dead ear was hanging on by only a few threads of skin

CFC staff remove maggots and dead tissue in the first cleaning

A quickly disappearing wound





# Look who's Walking

**Our last issue showed Braja upon his arrival, his left front leg broken and bent outwards at almost a 90-degree angle.** The broken leg, being shorter than the other, caused his shoulder to droop and his spine to twist which in time promised to develop into further and more serious complications.

Dr. Lavania worked for three hours to straightening the leg, using local anesthesia, and fashioning a

bamboo cast to hold it in the proper position. He mentioned that the muscles required to lift and swing the broken leg forward had become atrophied since they had not been used for months and that we should massage his shoulder twice a day with our Gavausadhi Healing Oil.

After the cast was fit, Braja walked even more awkwardly as his muscles were not working and he could now only drag his leg. Daily

massage and exercise for the past 20 days have revived his shoulder muscles which he is using to lift and move his front leg forward as he walks - much better than when he first arrived.

Within the next two weeks we should be able to remove his cast and hopefully applaud a restored limb. Meantime Braja is eating and resting well and enjoying all the extra attention as he recuperates.





# 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.



# Third Time Lucky

Over the last couple of months a brown calf with an abnormal back leg was sighted time and again out on the streets. Care for Cows sent out men twice to find the calf but came back empty handed on both occasions, as she was no where to be found.

But third time lucky, the elusive calf was found and brought in from Vidya Pitha. She had sustained a

fracture to her back leg a long time ago, most likely from a car accident, and without medical care it had healed abnormally. The vet was called to check her over and advised that the fracture was an old case and a cast would not work for her because the bones were already fixed apart by fibrous tissue.

Otherwise she was healthy and could get manage getting around on

her own without any pain. She instantly fit in at Care for Cows and quickly became a favorite due to her peaceful and self-satisfied nature. She is no trouble and remains free to wander in the main front yard with the other recuperating calves and as she grows up she will always have a special place to stay separate from the main herd.

She has been named Tungavidya.



Tungavidya, relaxed and content at Care for Cows





Tungavidya's fractured back leg healed on it's own without the bones connecting. Now the bone ends have sealed over, and are held apart by fibrous tissue.



While walking sometimes the limb bends in...



...and sometimes it bows out



A stretch bandage supports the leg to some extent



# 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





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



# Those Loved and Lost



Nandi was killed in a bull fight on the street in March



Purnanandini, Nandi's daughter, died of pneumonia



Syama peacefully passed away at a ripe old age



Street bull with us for 24 hrs died of heat stroke



Gulabi passed away 21 days after a serious car accident



Gaurangi, one of the Odd Couple, passed away in Aug



Rohini's premature calf passed away 2 days after birth



Gokarna a long term patient passed away early Oct



Gokuli died of infections 24 hrs after her arrival



Hi!  
My  
name  
is Gopi.  
When I  
was admitted to  
Care for Cows I was  
severely malnourished,  
covered with mange and  
completely depressed.  
They put me on a four-  
month beautifying  
program and just see  
the transformation!  
Thanks to all of you for  
helping.



[Gopi is sponsored by Raj Kaliyur Mannar, USA. Contributors to Gopi's Life-long Maintenance Fund are Christopher Lutz; Shyam & Eshan Popat, USA)



CARE FOR COWS  
IN VRINDAVANA