

October 2006



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN

A photograph showing a rescue operation. A white cow with some brown patches on its hindquarters is being led by a man in a white turban and shirt. The cow is standing on a dirt ground. In the background, a wooden truck is parked, and a man in a light blue shirt and dark trousers is standing next to it. The truck has a sign that reads "Rescue at Davanala Kund".

Rescue at Davanala Kund

**Go-Smaranam
More Blue Cows
Patient Updates
Abuse in Govardhana
The Cows' Manmade Enemy**



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

Meet Maharani

Maharani is our seven-year-old powerhouse — one of the most dynamic cows in the herd.

In 2002 she had a miscarriage followed by a vagina prolapse and a vet told her Vrajabasi owner that she would not be able to bear offspring. Thus she sadly brought Maharani to Care for Cows and asked that we look after her. Because of her natural beauty and her gentle nature, Maharani soon became the favorite of the cowherd men.

We soon noticed that besides the gentle side she showed to people, she had another side which was domineering towards



other members of the herd and which very soon established her as a leader. She was wise enough, however, not to challenge Krsna and carefully formed an alliance with him.

Dr. Lavanina regularly treated her prolapse and after a year it was corrected. Other than that she has always been perfectly healthy and extremely energetic.

Like a natural athlete she seizes every opportunity to exercise and strengthen her neck and legs. Sparring with Padmalochana and the other bulls is her favorite activity. Nandi was her best match (See the March 2006 issue).

After the morning feeding she often becomes animated and sprints around the one-acre resting pen or in the field on the hill. She struts and jumps, scourges the earth with her hooves and horns or seeks out suitable challengers to spar with.

Her enthusiasm for exercise often incites the rest of the herd into a short frolicking stampede.



Maharani upon arrival in May 2002



Relaxing in the barnyard



A natural leader







Maharani in action



Gauranga, another charming character at CFC has a lanky kind of walk, and stands with a pose much like a model. On closer inspection of his hips it is possible that he has broken his pelvis at some stage, being involved in an

accident, and so his hip bones are a little out of place, one higher than the other. To compensate for the difference in height, one of his ankles has dropped low to the ground, and the tendons have over stretched.

To help his tendons recover Gauranga's ankle has been set straight in a pvc cast for a month or so. After a few attempts of trying to shake the cast off his foot he is now accustomed to it and is moving around quite well.

Life on the Streets



Dr. R.P. Pandey, Associate Professor and Surgen at the Mathura Vetrinary College, showed Care for Cows a film of him removing more than 40 kilos of plastic bags from a cow's stomach. The plastic is ingested while the cows rumage through garbage heaps in search of food. The plastic clogs their digestive system and brings them to a slow death.

Their future is bleak if they are not offered a suitable place to stay.



Rescue at Davanala Kund

One morning our good friend Dr. Lavania saw an abandoned cow in the neighborhood surrounding Davanala Kunda. She was emaciated and had several abrasions, the most serious being under her tail.

He asked some standers-by to restrain her while he removed the many maggots from her deep wounds and doused the cow with disinfectant. He knew, however, that if the cow was not protected and administered ongoing

treatment, crows would continue pecking at the wounds and it would be a matter of hours before flies again infested her with larvae.

He called us and asked for help and we were happy as it gave us an



Maggot infested wounds around the tail area and clusters of ticks inside the ears and over the entire body

Care For Cows





The new patient is offered a welcoming snack, a disinfectant scrub and a new skirt to keep the crows from pecking her wounds.

opportunity to use our modest ambulance which had just been donated by a servant of Radha Mohan.

Upon arrival several men sipping tea under a large neem tree bordering the kunda were happy to learn that the cow was going to be cared for and readily offered assistance. While she is at least four years old it took only three men to load her on the truck since she is only skin and bones.

While loading her we noticed that her entire coat was covered with clusters of countless ticks draining

her of the little life she had left. Healthy cows have a sweet fragrance but this sorry one smelled of rotting flesh covered with dysentery.

She was first given a thorough bath with a solution to eliminate the ticks so the rest of the herd would not be infected. Since the wounds under her tail could not be dressed, we made her a skirt to ward off the flies and crows. Then she was offered all the nourishing food she could eat.

Fluid began to collect under her jaw between her

chin and neck which is a symptom of anemia. Dr. Lanavia ordered that her wounds should be cleansed daily and that she be allowed to eat as much as she wants.

She has been named Davanala Devi and we hope this gentle creature will continue her rapid improvement and stay with us the rest of her life.



Fluid indicating anemia



The genital area of the cow is one of the fastest areas to heal

A close-up photograph of a cow's hoof, which is dark brown and split into two distinct toes. The hoof is elegantly decorated with a thick white beaded garland draped over the top, interspersed with vibrant pink and red flowers and green leaves. A purple beaded garland is wrapped around the lower part of the hoof. At the base of the hoof, there are clusters of bright orange and yellow marigolds, along with more pink and red flowers. The entire scene is set against a light-colored, textured background, possibly sand or a light-colored surface.

Did You Know Cows have cloven hooves

In galloping through boggy places or in deep mud, cows can distance a horse. Their toes spread, and therefore their wide feet do not sink so deep as do those of the solid-hoofed horse.

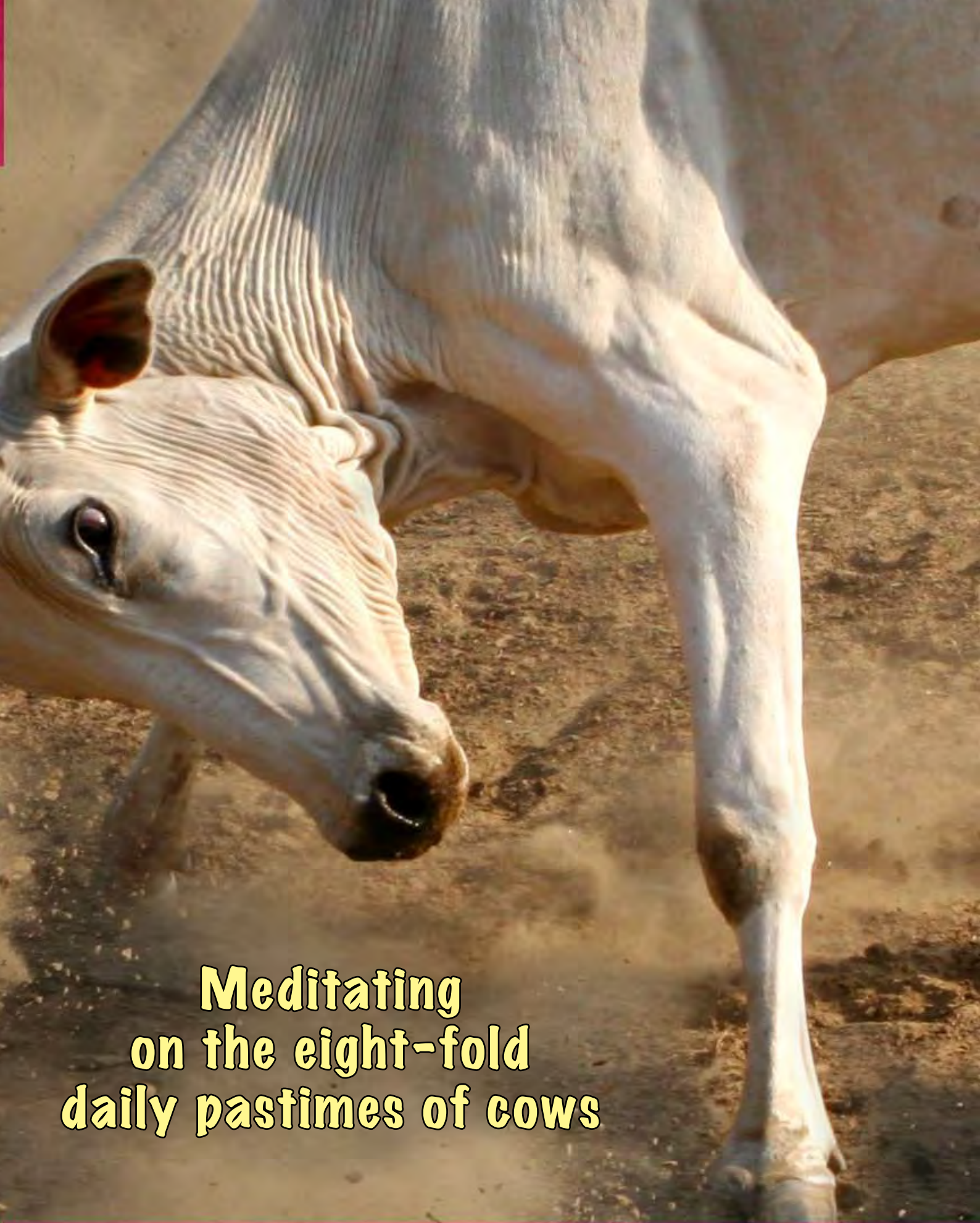
Furthermore, the cleft between the toes permits the air to enter the hole in the mud as the foot is raised - whereas the horse must overcome a partial vacuum when it withdraws its hoof, and so wastes considerable muscular effort beside having its speed retarded and its self-confidence shaken.

Astha-kaliya lila

Go Smaranam



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



**Meditating
on the eight-fold
daily pastimes of cows**

Sparring



Sparring is an activity cows and bulls perform from infancy to old age.

It is a form of exercise as well as a method to determine their place in the herd hierarchy.

Sparring usually takes place between two contestants but we have observed group bouts with as many as five.

The general procedure is

that the challenger stands opposite his rival and butts his head against his. Sometimes this is preceded by snorting and scratching the ground with the front hooves.

The same procedure takes place in an actual fight, but in sparring there is no attempt to hurt or injure the opponent — only to establish who is stronger

and more agile.

While the size of the horns play an important part, stamina, competitive spirit, desire to dominate, and fortitude most often determine the victor.

Those sparring matches that take place between younger and older, or smaller and larger bovines are akin to training lessons. The young calves who







regularly spar with older and stronger rivals who they can't possibly defeat learn the art quickly and are destined to become the future champions.

When the contestants are equally matched and

both have a domineering nature, there is every chance the bout can turn into a heated fight where broken horns, gorging or gouging of the eyes can result. In such cases an effective way to break up

the fight is to douse the combatants with one or more buckets of water.

In our herd heated battles rarely occur, more often sparring begins by gentle butting of heads and ends in smooching.



6 months of Care



Braja's leg on arrival



6 months of multiple casts



CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN

Today Braja is celebrating with his treatment successfully completed



Champaka Lata and Radhe Shyama upon arrival from Govardhana village

Abuse in Govardhana?



Mayapur Chandra, Champaka Lata and their daughter Padmavati, formerly of North Carolina, now reside in Govardhana and have taken an interest in cow protection. They are maintaining several stray calves in front of their home and recently rescued a severely abused calf and

brought her to CFC and named her Radhe Shyama. What follows is Champaka Lata's report:

"We brought a female calf from Govardhana to Care for Cows in the beginning of September. Her owner was a lady who beat her cow in the face for upsetting a water bucket.

"The calf is severely malnourished. She was never allowed to drink a sufficient quantity of milk. Radhe Shyama was allowed to nurse for approximately 20 seconds — only enough time to inspire her mother to release her milk. Then after the udder had been squeezed dry by the owner, she was permitted to nurse for another minute.

"A couple of times I watched horrified as her owners dragged her on her knees away from her mother when her legs had buckled under her. She was so weak that once she had fallen or sat down, she was unable to get up on her own. Her owners would yell and beat her to force her to rise. And if that didn't work, they would just

drag her. The lacerations, scrapes and scars all over her legs indicate that this was common procedure.

"The calf's own mother never showed her any affection. It's as if the mother had also experienced similarly callous treatment to the point that she simply didn't know how to give affection. Or maybe she was shielding herself from the pain of watching her baby being so horribly mistreated. If she just looked away and pretended that the decrepit, scrawny little thing didn't exist she could spare herself the torment of her calf's sorry plight.

"One morning, I was horrified to find Radhe Shyama lying sprawled across the ground as if

dead. Her mother was no longer giving milk, so the owners had untied the calf. (Oh, did I mention that they previously had her tied to such a short leash that she was unable to lift her head when standing?) But where would she go? She was too weak to even stand on her own.

"The owner lady fed me a sob story about how the calf had always been sick and how she had stayed up night after night trying to nurse her back to health. (Um.) She told me that now the calf had broken her leg which is why she lay on the ground looking half dead. When I asked her if she would call a doctor, she suddenly changed her story minimizing the calf's



needs. It was obvious that she intended to do nothing except yell some more and this only prompted the little calf to jerk in terror until she finally managed to get to an sitting position.

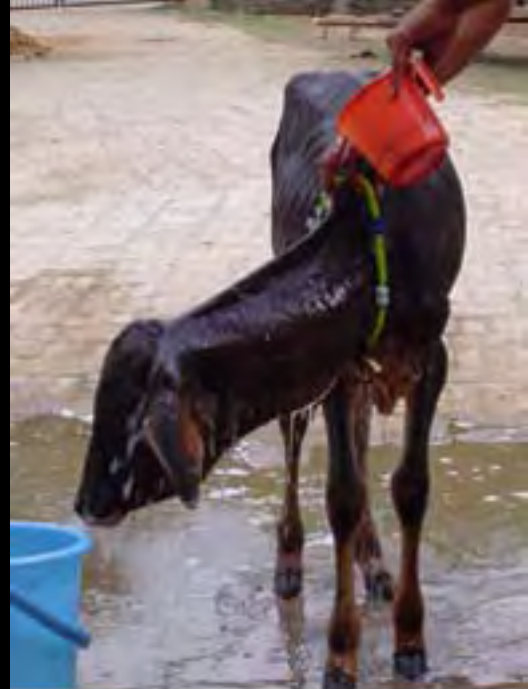
"We called Care for Cows and after a relatively eventless journey we brought our sorry little load to a sanctuary of peace, love and care.

"As soon as she arrived, we discovered her leg was not broken and she spent about an hour eating. She didn't seem terribly sick but that first night, she came down with fever and has been struggling with one ailment after another since.

"Thanks to the medical staff and the many supporters around the world Radhe Shyama now has a chance for a peaceful, healthy life."

Upon arrival Radhe Shyama was given a disinfecting bath and thorough grooming. Next several abrasions on her body were attended to. We noticed a minor eye injury which Dr. Lavania treated with a delicate injection and it cleared up.

Of greatest concern is that pus is gathering in a large abcess spanning the whole side of her face. Drs. Lavania and Pandey have drained the abcess and removed all dead tissue from the cavity. We are expecting it to heal soon. Most encouraging is that Radhe Shyama has a great appetite.



Patient Update

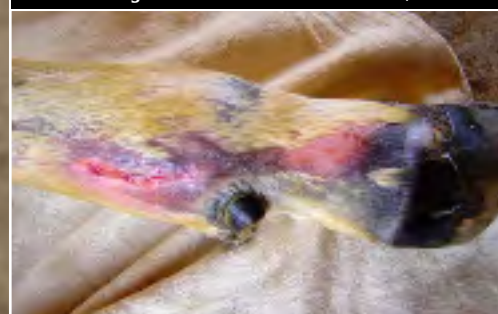
When Gauri Priya arrived in August she had at least 20 small cuts and abrasions all over her body and two more serious leg wounds – part of growing up on the street in a busy market area.

After 6 weeks of care most of her small wounds have disappeared, her leg wounds are healing well and she has a soft, healthy new coat of hair growing. Though the baby of our herd, she is completely fearless, very easy going, and a favorite of all visitors.

Always wanting to be where the action is, she likes to sit by the roadside fence where she receives lots of attention from passing pedestrians.



Back leg wound before and after above photos



Front leg wound before and after above photos

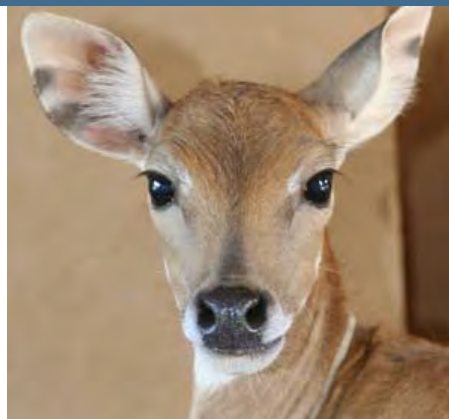


Janardana and Radhika get to know each other

More Blue Cows

This month different villagers brought us two infant Neel Gai (Blue Cows). The female Radhika lost her mother and in a frantic search for milk made a pact with a village cow. Janardana's mother was hit and

killed by a train and while in shock, seized in a death grip by a hungry dog. Upon arrival his throat was so swollen he could not nurse so he had to be fed with a syringe. Both are now healthy and getting adjusted.



Radhika



Canine teeth marks



Being fed milk with a syringe



Recovering Janardana



Our calves curiously inspect Radhika and then welcome her with licking

These deer or antelope are called Blue Cows as they turn grayish-blue when they reach adulthood. Below is a photo of a full grown Neel Gai bull who weighs in at approximately 900 kilos. Only the bulls develop horns.

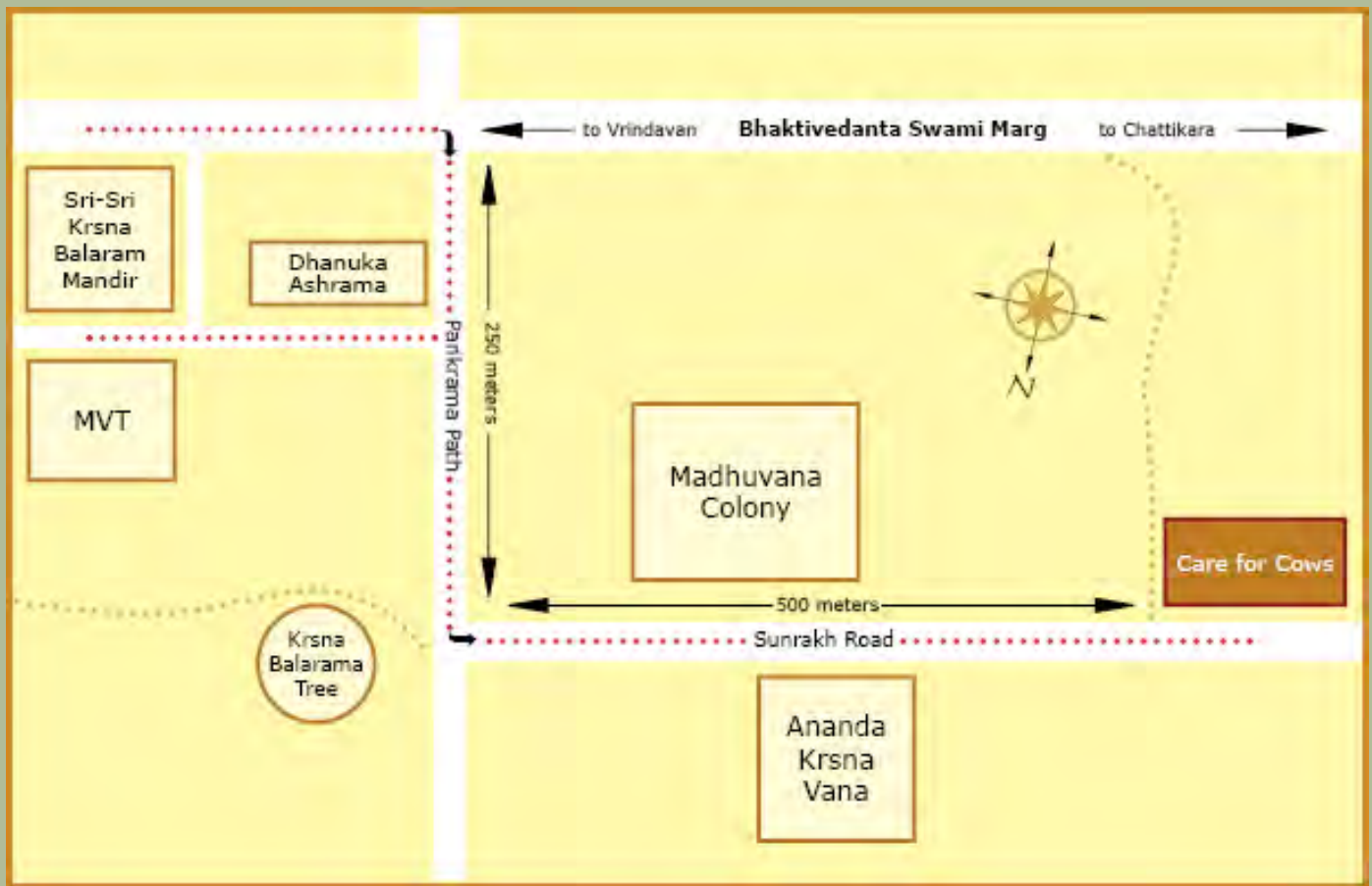


The two new calves with Van Krsna

Celebrate Gopastami & Govardhan Puja with Care for Cows



Here's how to find us



and Vilasa Manjari (Australia) for making it possible for him to become strong and happy.

Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their whole-hearted thanks to all of you who assisted during August to feed, sponsor, contribute to the Life-Long Maintenance Fund, donate medical supplies and offer good advice.

Radha Jivan dasa, USA
Suresh Vagjiani, UK
Rohini Devi Dasi, Kenya
Jess Vincent, USA
Ekanath Dasa, USA
Nalini Kanta Dasa, USA
Prem Sujan, USA
Devanarayana dasa, Canada
Shamma Barath, South Africa
Buddhimanta dasa, New Zealand
Marianna Polanski, USA
Dina Sarana Dasa, USA
Prasanna Ceta Dasa, USA
Jaitrie Paul, USA

Asi-Kunda, Australia
Hamsarupa dasa, USA
Anonymous, Singapore
Alex, Sheelpa, Devika-Youvana, UK
Eric Hutson, USA
Katyayani dd, USA
Sascha Dinges, Germany, on behalf of
Hermann and Yvonne Schwalm
Rayan Koendjbiharie, Netherlands
Nitananda Rama dasa, USA
Daniel Laflor, Denmark
Nalini Gogar, Netherlands
Joris Maas, Netherlands
Karunika Dasi, New Zealand
Hari Priya Dasi. New Zealand
Sastra Dasa, USA
Bhakta Jason, Australia
Uttama Caitanya Dasa, Malaysia
Nepali Arjuna, UK
Radha Caran, Krsna Mayi and Janaki,
Poland

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