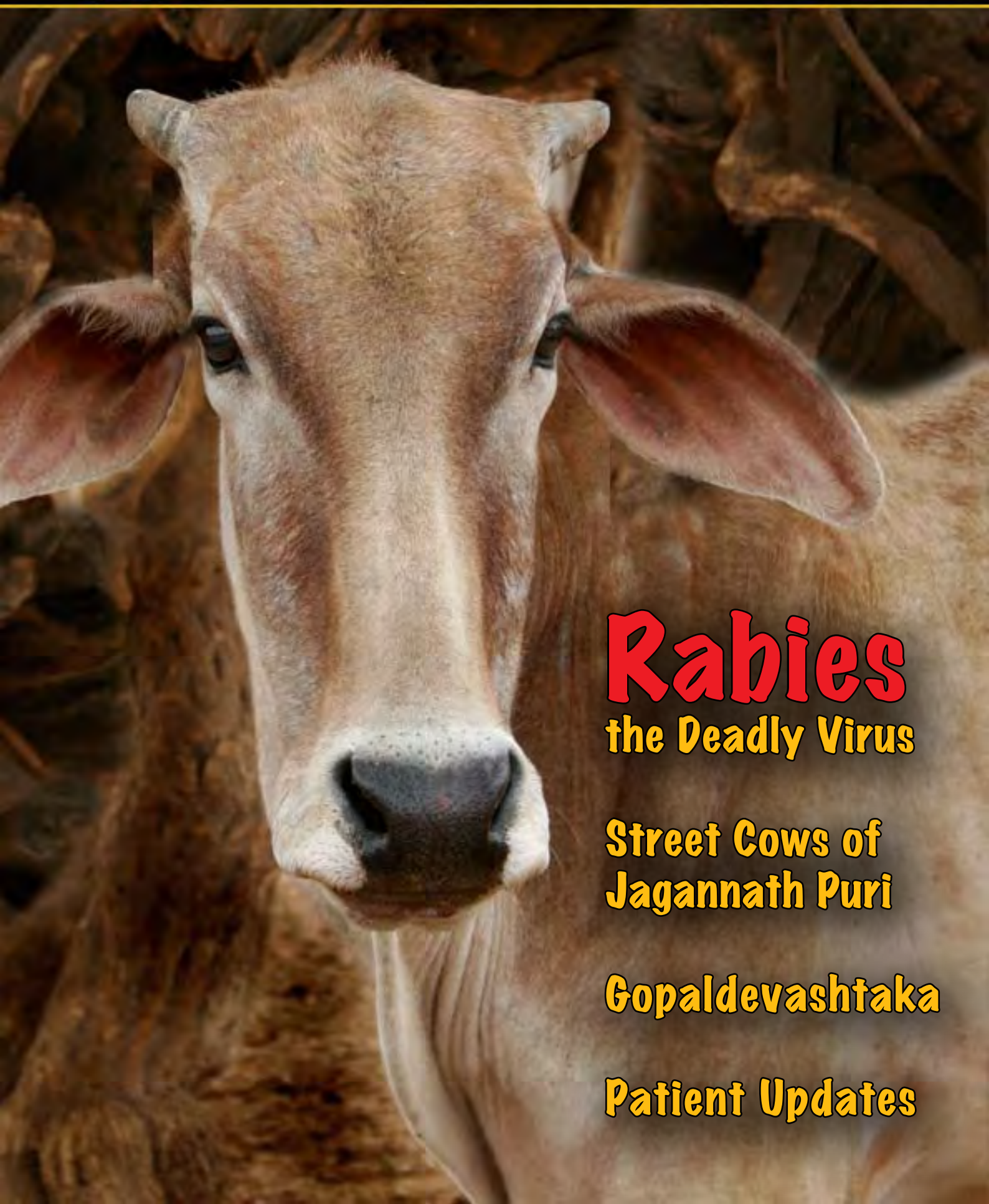


April 2008



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN



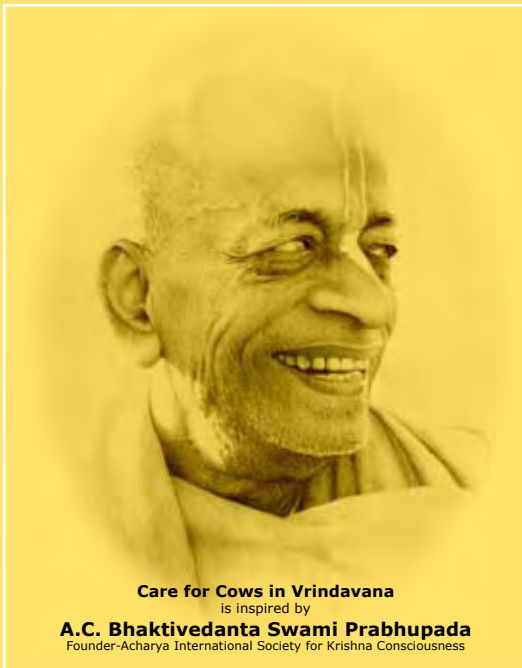
Rabies

the Deadly Virus

**Street Cows of
Jagannath Puri**

Gopaldevashtaka

Patient Updates



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CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN

Jaya Sri Guru!
Jaya Sri Gopala!
Jaya Sri Go Mata!

Dear Friends,

A Mridanga teacher visited Vrindavan to learn the art of Mridanga making from local craftsmen who are expert in this field.

He learned the intricacies of making the rice paste (*masala*) that adheres to the heads of the drum to produce the resonating and expressive sounds that so wonderfully enhance the devotional hymns sung with this drum.

While learning to cut the leather to make the straps and the heads, he learned that though buffalo, camel, and goat skins are available, cow hides are most preferred as they produce the "sweetest" sound. He was told that cow hides can be easily obtained from Muslim dealers in Mathura...

When a cow is faced with immanent danger, she emits a unique howl; an unmistakable desperate appeal for help like no other sound they make. We refer to this howl as the alarm call.

Those Mridangas which are made from cow hide obtained by violence, no matter how sweet they may be said to sound, echo that howling and can never do anything but repel and repulse the Lord they intend to glorify.

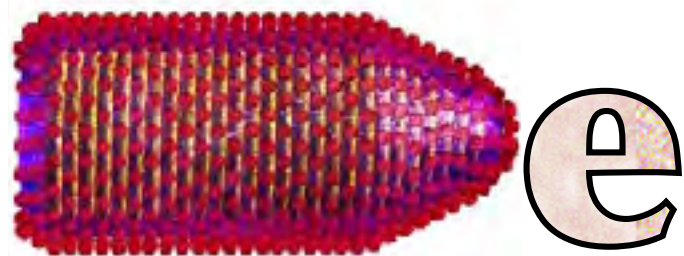
The CFC Staff

careforcows.org

Care for Cows in Vrindavan is a Charitable Trust registered in India, USA, Holland and Switzerland.



The



e



adly Virus



Rabies is a highly fatal viral infection of the central nervous system, which occurs in all warm-blooded animals, including man, and is transmitted by the bite of affected animals. It is manifested by motor irritation with clinical signs of mania and an attack complex, inability to swallow, and by a progressive ascending paralysis beginning in the pelvic limbs and moving forward to the trunk and the thoracic limbs.



Far left, a rabid ox in India, bellowing and drooling, is shackled for restraint due to lack of isolation facilities. Left, bullet shaped rabies virus as seen under the microscope. Below, a rabid dog about to attack, displays the classic 'Mad Dog' appearance.





Although rabies occurs throughout the world, a few countries are free of the disease.

Transmission

Transmission is usually by the bite of a rabid animal, via saliva rich in virus. Less commonly, virus may be introduced into existing cuts or wounds on skin, or through

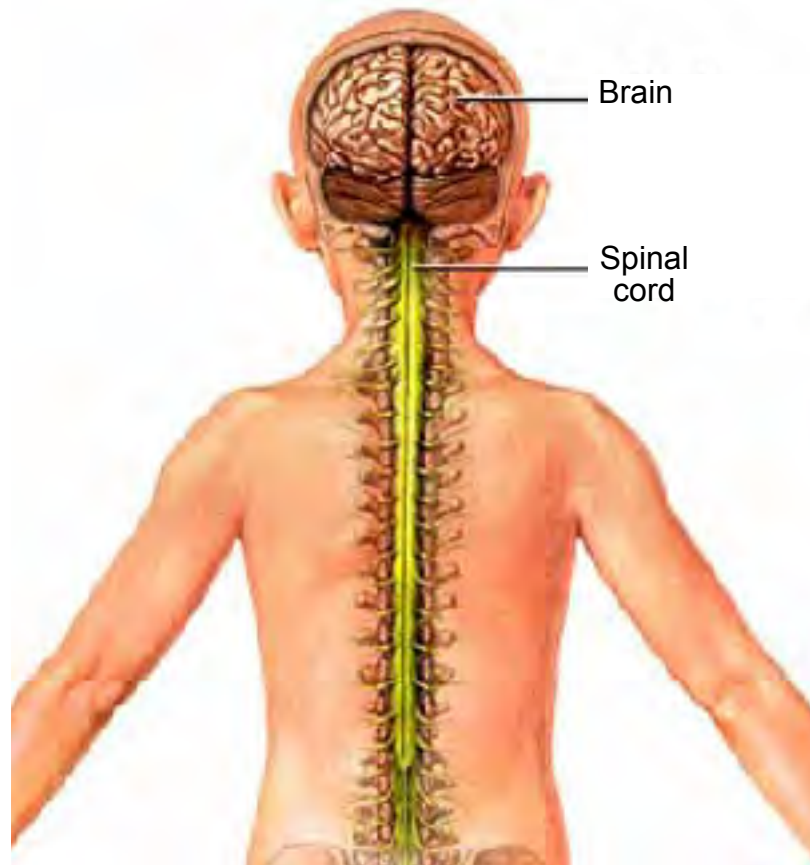
intact or abraded mucous membrane. Virus may be present in the saliva and be transmitted by an infected animal some days before onset of clinical signs. Rarely, transmission has been recorded by non-salivary routes. These include aerosol transmission to man in the laboratory and in bat-infested caves.

Carrier animals transmit infective saliva to cows primarily by biting. The incubation period is prolonged and variable. Most cases occur within 21-80 days after exposure, but the incubation period may be shorter or considerably longer. Most infections occur by the deposition of infected



Left, carrier animals transmit infective saliva to cows by biting. For example, this vampire bat shown feeding from a cow in Brazil was later found to harbor the rabies virus.

Below, the virus passes to the brain via the peripheral nerves (ascending paralysis). During lethal rabies infection the blood-brain barrier (BBB) does not allow anti-viral immune cells to enter the brain, rendering treatment of the disease unsuccessful.



saliva into muscle or mucous membranes. Following replication at the site, the virus travels via the peripheral nerves to the spinal cord and ascends to the brain. Hence the variation in incubation period depending on the site of injury. Bites on the head usually result in a shorter incubation period than bites

on the extremities. The severity and the site of the lesions will govern to a large extent whether the clinical picture is primarily one of irritative or paralytic phenomena. The two extremes of the paralytic or dumb form and the furious form are accompanied by many cases which lie somewhere between the two.

So great is the clinical variation of symptoms that any animal known to be exposed and showing signs of spinal cord or brain involvement should be considered rabid until proved otherwise.

In addition, many animals suffering from other diseases will be left untreated if only

suspected of rabies. The safest attitude to adopt is to handle all suspect animals with extreme care but continue to treat them for other diseases if such treatment appears to be indicated. If the animal is rabid, it will die and the diagnosis can then be confirmed by laboratory examination. Euthanasia of

suspect animals must be prevented, since the development of the disease in the animal is necessary to establish a diagnosis

Clinical Findings

Initially seen simply as a change in behavior, early cases progress to show salivation, apprehension, bellowing and knuckling of the hind fetlocks.

This may lead directly to paralysis and death, although in the more classic furious form of rabies with characteristic bellowing, aggression sometimes occurs in cows.

Paralytic Form

This is characterized by early paralysis of the throat and masseter muscles, usually with



profuse salivation and inability to swallow. These animals are not vicious and rarely attempt to bite. The paralysis progresses rapidly to all parts of the body, and coma and death follow in a few hours.

Furious Form

This is the classical 'mad-dog syndrome' in which the animal becomes irrational and

viciously aggressive. The facial expression is one of alertness and anxiety, with pupils dilated; noise invites attack.

Such animals lose all caution and fear of natural enemies.

There is no evidence of paralysis during the excitatory stage. Animals rarely live > 10 days after the onset of signs.

Dogs with this form of rabies

frequently roam streets and highways, biting other animals, people, and any moving object.

They commonly swallow foreign objects, eg feces, straw, sticks, and stones. Rabid dogs chew the wire and frame of their cages, breaking their teeth, and are hypersensitive to sound and movement. As the disease progresses,



Left, animals with 'dumb' rabies appear depressed, lethargic, and uncoordinated. Gradually they become completely paralyzed. When their throat and jaw muscles are paralyzed, the animals will drool and have difficulty swallowing. In contrast, the cow pictured above, affected by the 'furious' form of rabies, is hyperactive, aggressive, and potentially dangerous to other animals and humans.



muscular incoordination and seizures become common. Death is usually the result of respiratory paralysis. Rabies in cows follows the same general pattern, and those with the furious form are dangerous, attacking, butting, and pursuing man and other animals. Lactation ceases abruptly in dairy cows. Instead

of the usual placid expression, there is one of alertness. The eyes and ears follow sounds and movement. A most typical clinical sign in cows is a characteristic bellowing. This may continue intermittently until shortly before death.

Exposure to Rabies

It is important to ascertain whether exposure to rabies

infection has occurred. It should be presumed that a domestic animal has been exposed if saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid or potentially rabid animal could have had direct contact with mucous membranes or a break in the skin, even though an actual bite was not witnessed.

It is recommended the



animal should be placed in quarantine and vaccinated against rabies. If vaccination of an exposed animal is current, it should be revaccinated immediately and confined for 90 days observation. Post-exposure vaccination is unlikely to be of value in animals, as death usually occurs before

Left, a rabid fox with furious rabies. The fox is circling the cage vertically. It is on it's way down the other side of the cage without missing a step.
Below, CFC herd being immunized against rabies.



appreciable immunity has had time to develop.

Diagnostic Testing

At death there are viral inclusions and particles in virtually every neuron in the brain, spinal cord and ganglia. Virus reaches the salivary glands and many other organs.

It cannot be demonstrated in the blood at any time. Rabies is confirmed by testing on fresh brain tissue.

Human Immunization

It is strongly recommended that all people in high-risk groups, such as vets, animal control officers, laboratory workers, and people traveling to countries in which dog

rabies is endemic receive pre-exposure immunization.

However this cannot be relied on in the event of subsequent rabies exposure and must be supplemented by a limited post-exposure immunization regimen.

Rabies virus is one of the larger viruses and is relatively fragile. It is susceptible to most standard disinfectants and dies in dried saliva in a few hours.

Immediate and thorough washing of all bite wounds and scratches with soap and water is perhaps the most effective measure for preventing rabies if bitten by a rabid animal.

Rabies Strikes CFC

The Deadly Virus Claims Five



The young bull we admitted who was infected with rabies

At the end of February we took in a distressed young bull who had been wandering with the neighborhood cows of Madhuvan Colony. When we saw him gnawing on the gober plaster on one of the houses in the neighborhood

we knew something was wrong. His mouth was muddy and his eyes alert and alarmed.

We admitted him to the clinic and he was preliminarily diagnosed with ketosis, a nervous disease which often affects

the throat muscles. We placed him in the sick ward to share a pen with two other bulls. He could not eat or drink and was so unsettled and frustrated he would trample his roommates. We had to tie him up and after two days of attempting to hand-feed him he died.

Three weeks later Kala Krsna, a downed bull who had shared the same pen with him developed the same symptoms and also died. He had been with us



Kala Krsna

for more than one and a half years.

A few days later, Syamala, who had been kept in the adjacent pen,



Syamala

stopped eating and drinking and also died. We knew we had a contagious disease on our hands and sent her body to the Mathura Veterinary College for a post mortem examination. The results showed that Syamala died of rabies.

Dr. R.P. Pandey and his associates from the hospital told us we should quarantine the cow shed and immediately get our staff and herd



Ramadas

vaccinated for rabies. Shortly thereafter two other patients in the sick ward, Tota Gopinath and Ramadas stopped eating, started drooling and died.

Our minds started to reel. Rabies is transmitted through saliva and most of our herd drink out of the same trough, and our calves frequently wander to eat the remnants of the sick cows. For weeks our whole medical staff had been in contact with the patients who died of rabies and one of them had also been bitten.

We quickly obtained vaccine for our staff and began the course of five injections. Getting enough vaccine for the herd took a few days and the task of vaccinating all of them in a day, what to speak of six times, seemed overwhelming.

We each wrote a will instructing others how to proceed if we died and continued our service. Each time a cow sneezed or coughed, we suspected

rabies. When the cows approached to lick us with affection, we hesitated.

We sadly prohibited many visitors from entering the cowshed and insisted that anyone who touched the nose or mouth of a cow, immediately wash with disinfectant soap. These were the darkest days at Care for Cows.

With the passing of each day the tension subsided as no further rabies cases emerged. It seems the worst is over.

Since we admit an average of six cows each month, we will now quarantine each new one before allowing them to mix with the healthy herd. We also plan to have each new admission vaccinated for rabies and hoof and mouth disease upon entry. We hope this unfortunate experience will improve our service to the abandoned cows of Vrindavan.

Many thanks to Radhapati Dasa of Vrindavan for donating to cover the cost of the rabies vaccine for our whole staff and herd.

Street Cows of Jagannath Puri

by Krsnamayi devi dasi



On a recent trip to Puri, my husband and I decided to head up to the famous Jagannatha Mandir to take photos of the cows and bulls who relax near the four main gates of the temple.

For those of us associated with Gaudiya Vaisnavism, Puri holds a special place in our hearts because it is not only the city dedicated to Lord Jagannatha, Krishna, but it was the place where Lord Caitanya spent much of his life.

I have to admit however that my first impressions of Jagannatha Puri were not from reading/hearing the story of Lord Caitanya's later years.

The first time I can recall being struck by the idea of Puri Dham was from hearing about Raghunatha Das Goswami's renunciation while he resided in Puri. As a young boy Raghunatha had grown up with everything that he could

have ever desired, but he eventually ran away, renouncing everything, in order to join Lord Caitanya in Puri. Lord Caitanya gave Raghunatha to Swarup Damodara for training and instruction.

For some days after his arrival Raghunatha took *prasad* at Kasi Misra's house. He then began to beg at the gate of the Jagannatha temple. Feeling like a prostitute who looks at everyone as a potential customer, Raghunatha

then gave up begging at the main gate and then began to take *prasad* at the Ksetra where poor quality food is given to the poor.

After some time, Raghunatha felt that this was also not good as he was still dependent on someone else for his sustenance. On the side of Jagannatha Mandir there are a few places where old *prasad* that has not been sold in the Ananda Bazaar is thrown. This is a place where numerous cows

happily munch the rice and *subjis* that have been thrown out. Raghunatha, however, only took that *prasad* that was so rotten that even the cows would not touch it.

On my first trip to Puri, around twelve years ago, I was amazed to see that this description of the Jagannatha temple was still accurate. This year, as my husband I and drove our bicycles up to the temple, hoping to catch a few good shots of the cows eating



Cows eating Jagannath prasad



Village women sell bundles of fresh grass for one rupee each

Jagannatha Mahaprasad next to the temple, we noticed something that we had never seen before.

Around the side of the temple, at approximately noon, there were groups of village ladies selling bundles of fresh, juicy, sweet grass for the cows. Pilgrims could, for a mere rupee, purchase one bundle of grass for the cows.

We stood and watched for some time. Pilgrims, who were not so accustomed to being around cows, would purchase a whole pile of bundles, fifty or so, and request the village ladies to feed the cows while they watched.

The local *brahmins*, after their *seva* at the temple were first feeding

cows with grass by their own hands before returning home. Cows were happily munching away, pilgrims got their *punya*, and village ladies made some money. What a great arrangement!

There seems to be some curious attributes of cows in Puri. The most obvious is that most of the cows/ bulls in Puri appear to be

midgets. A full grown bull only reaches up to one's waist, and one month old baby calves are smaller than dogs.

The second interesting thing that is common in the Puri is that many cows have a fifth leg growing out of their backs, sometimes just a flap, and other times complete with a hoof.



At the south-western corner of the outer-walls of the temple one may catch a glimpse of a huge bull that is locally known as the "Tiger" because of his unusual markings and coloring. Local merchants proudly call out to us as we photograph him to be careful because he is a tiger!

Over all, cows in Puri appear to be much healthier than in other places in India. Perhaps it is the climate, perhaps an abundance of good fresh food, or perhaps it's just the mercy of Lord Jagannatha.



Many street cows are only waist high



The "Tiger" of Jagannath Puri



Sri Gopaladevashtaka

Eight Prayers Glorifying Sri Gopaladeva
by Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti
Translated by Kusakratha dasa



Text 1

*madhura-mridula-cittah prema-matraika-vittah
svajana-racita-vesah prapta-sobha-viseshah
vividha-manimayalankaravan sarva-kalam
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, whose heart is charming and gentle, for whom pure love is the only wealth, who wears garments and made by His devotees, who is splendidly handsome, and who wears many kinds of jewel ornaments, eternally appear in my heart.

Text 2

*nirupama-guna-rupah sarva-madhurya-bhupah
srita-tanu-ruci-dasyah koti-candra-stutasyah
amrita-vijayi-hasyah procchalac-cilli-lasyah
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, who virtues and handsomeness have no equal, who is the king of all sweetness, who is served by all bodily splendor, whose face is praised by millions of moons, whose smile defeats nectar, and whose eyebrows playfully dance, appear in my heart.

Text 3

*dhrita-nava-parabhagah savya-hasta-sthitagah
prakatita-nija-kakshah prapta-lavanya-lakshah
krita-nija-jana-rakshah prema-vistara-dakshah
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, who is the abode of all ever-fresh opulence and auspiciousness, whose left hand rests on His waist, who possesses handsomeness multiplied millions of times, who protects His devotees, and who expertly increases their love for Him, appear in my heart.

Text 4

*krama-valad-anuraga-sva-priyapanga-bhaga-
dhvanita-rasa-vilasa-jnana-vijnapi-hasah
smrita-ratipati-yagah priti-hamsi-tadagah
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, whose sidelong glances gradually increase His devotees' love, whose knowing smile announces His nectar pastimes, who remembers the Kamadeva-yajna, and who is a lake where the swans of pure love play, appear in my heart.

Text 5

*madhurima-bhara-magne bhaty asavye 'valagne
tribalir alasavattvad yasya pushtanatattvat
itarata iha tasya mara-rekheva yasya
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, the three lines on whose charming waist, created from looseness and slight chubbiness, are like the mark of Kamadeva, appear in my heart.

Text 6

*vahati valita-harsham vahayams canuvarsham
bhajati ca saganam svam bhojayan yo 'rpayan svam
giri-mukuta-manim sridama-van-mitrata-srih
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, who showers transcendental bliss, who shares lunch with His friends, who gives them Govardhana Hill, the crest-jewel of mountains, and who shines with friendship for Sridama, appear in my heart.

Text 7

*adhidharam anuragam madhavendrasya tanvams
tad-amala-hridayottham prema-sevam vivrinvan
prakatita-nija-saktya vallabhacarya-bhaktya
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva, who with devotional potency placed loving devotional service in the pure heart of Madhavendra Puri, appear in my heart.

Text 8

*pratidinam adhunapi prekshyate sarvadapi
pranaya-surasa-carya yasya varya saparya
ganayati kati bhogan kah kriti tat-prayogan
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

Even today sweet loving service to Srila Gopaladeva may be seen at every moment. What saintly devotee can count the many offerings made to Him? May Srila Gopaladeva appear in my heart.

Text 9

*giridhara-vara-devasyashtakenemam eva
smarati nisi dine va yo grihe va vane va
akutula hridayasya premadatvena tasya
sphuratu hridi sa eva srila-gopaladevah*

May Srila Gopaladeva appear in the heart of the pure-hearted devotee who, living either at home or in the forest, remembers Him by chanting, either in the day or night, these eight verses glorifying the Deity of Govardhana Hill.



Weak from calcium deficiency the cow was unable to stand up



CFC staff treated the cow with IV fluids as the cow's family looked on



Within the hour she was ready to go home

Early in the month a poor villager and his family had brought their sick cow to CFC for treatment. The villager explained that the cow had recently given birth but had lost the calf due to complications during the delivery.

Depressed and off feed the cow had become weak over the subsequent days. She barely made the 2km walk from home to CFC and had to sit down once she reached the front gate. After resting some time she was lifted to her feet by the CFC staff and brought into the clinic.

Day Patient

Dr Lavania examined the cow and treated her with IV fluids for calcium and magnesium deficiency. She then ate a full bowl of cow food and to the delight of her family and the staff she got up with minimal effort and after some sweet treats was ready to go home. Her follow up treatment included IV repeated after 48 hours and calcium magnesium oral medication for one month.

A LOST LEG THAT STARTED TO MEND

Some fractures cannot heal, so some legs cannot be saved. A fractured leg, as complicated as they come - with bones protruding, the lower leg hanging on by a thin strip of flesh, cut off from nerves and veins along one side, and gangrene and infection setting in - this is how our latest patient arrived in March and there was little hope to save her leg.



Dr Lavania was asked if the limb would have to be amputated to which he replied "Amputating is easy. Saving the leg is not easy. But we will first try to save it."

The new patient's surgery was performed onsite at CFC by the Doctor and assisted by the CFC medical team. Both protruding bone ends were cut back using a wire bone saw and the wound was cleaned of necrotic tissue which was surgically removed by the Doctor. Her wound was dressed and the limb set in a pvc cast.

Over the following days and weeks the wound was cleaned daily and packed with sugar which draws out infection and promotes rapid cell growth. The thin strip of tissue was rejuvenated and spread out to close in around the open wound. The lower limb was revived with increased blood flow.

A huge difference was evident in healing after only



The wound was open and infected. Parts of the lower limb had become black and hard.



Shyam Hari cut the protruding bones under the guidance of Dr Lavania



Necrotic tissue was removed back to healthy flesh



A rejuvenating leg after three weeks of care



End of March, our patient took her first morning walk around the CFC Clinic compound

three weeks of wound care. In April a small procedure will be performed by the Doctor to remove overgrowth of tissue from the bone centers. At this stage there is no infection or gangrene in the limb and it is hoped the wound will continue to close up rapidly as it has been.

CFC has successfully treated many cases of fractured limbs that had lost 2 inches or more of bone. The healing time varies from case to case, ranging from 3 - 12 months. Typically the wound heals, filling in the gap between bone ends with new tissue which over time becomes fibrous, creating a false joint. The limb is usable and weight bearing, though the cow usually has a limp, but most important the end result is a cow moving on four legs instead of three.

There is now every hope that our lucky new patient's leg will be saved. Wish her all the best!



**HELP RAISE
\$500,000
TO PURCHASE
A HOME
FOR US**

The Care for Cows Clinic is a home for over 100 injured, sick or disabled cows.

Help Krsna's abandoned cows in Vrindavan

Our deadline has been extended until June 2008

IF JUST 1,000 PEOPLE DONATE \$500 WE CAN REACH OUR GOAL

Email kurmarupa@careforcows.org | Visit careforcows.org | Donate via PayPal or credit card

Thank You From the Cows



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

Alessandra Petrasi, Italy
Amar Bahadur Singh, India
Amy Bardsley, USA
Ana Glaucia Ferreira Dias, Brazil
Ananda Dasa, Guatemala
Andrea Braga, Brazil
Anonymous, Singapore
Anuttama Dasi, Slovakia
Architha Raja, USA
Barry Edwards, USA
Bart Friso, Netherlands
Bhaktin Jen, USA
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Cary Ann Byers, USA
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Venkatta Bhatta, Moscow
Vera Elizarova, USA
Vidyasagar Lokhande, USA
Vijay Sarasvat, USA
Viktoria Timm, Germany
Vyasapada Dasa, Canada

**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**