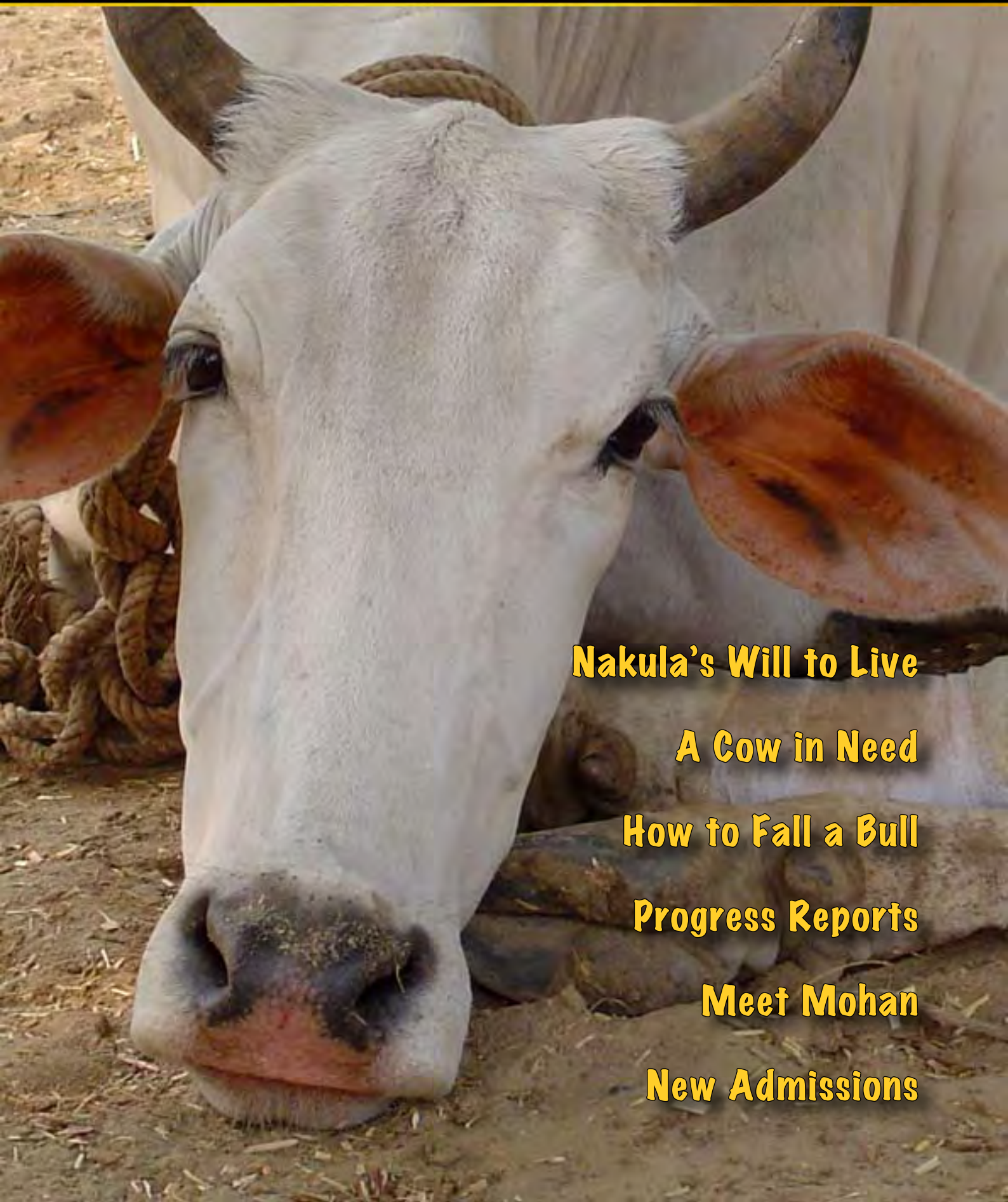


November 2007



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN



Nakula's Will to Live

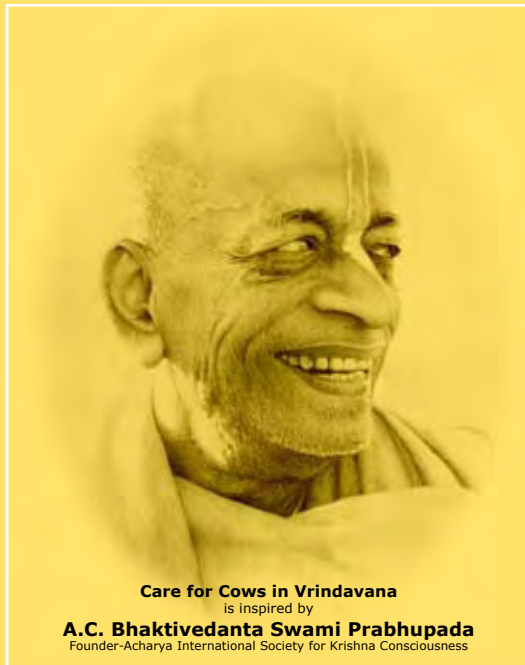
A Cow in Need

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CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN

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

Dear Friends,

There is an elderly sadhu living in Govardhana who is a great singer of Krsna *bhajana*. He claims that in his past life he was a Muslim and recalls while once riding on horseback coming across a cow who was stuck in the mud. He dismounted, unraveled his turban and fashioned it into a lasso. After a few attempts he secured the cow around the horns with the cloth and then pulled her to safety. After accomplishing that, he again mounted his horse and went about his regular business.

This simple act of helping a cow in distress, he claims, afforded him the opportunity to take birth in Braja Mandal as a Vaisnava with a talent for singing and a taste for *bhajana*.

His claim is supported by a statement from the *Vishnu dharmottara Purana*, Part 3, Chapter 291: "If one delivers a cow from a dangerous situation; from being stuck in the mud or from being attacked by a tiger, one attains the result of performing an *Ashvamedha Yajna*. If one treats a sick cow with medicine, one can become cured of his own disease. By protecting the cow from fear, one becomes fearless. One should treat the cow with great respect."

The CFC Staff

careforcows.org

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



Biharilal is a tough little patient who kicks and flips around during his daily wound cleaning sessions. He's brought up on the streets and it shows!

But when he was sent to Mathura for x-rays along with Sushila, Biharilal was clearly stressed to be leaving CFC and

fearful of the unknown ahead. After his x-ray at the hospital he shot out of the x-ray room like a rocket and waited impatiently by the truck to return home. The Doctor examined the x-ray and said the fracture was serious and will take months to heal, but the bones will mend. When

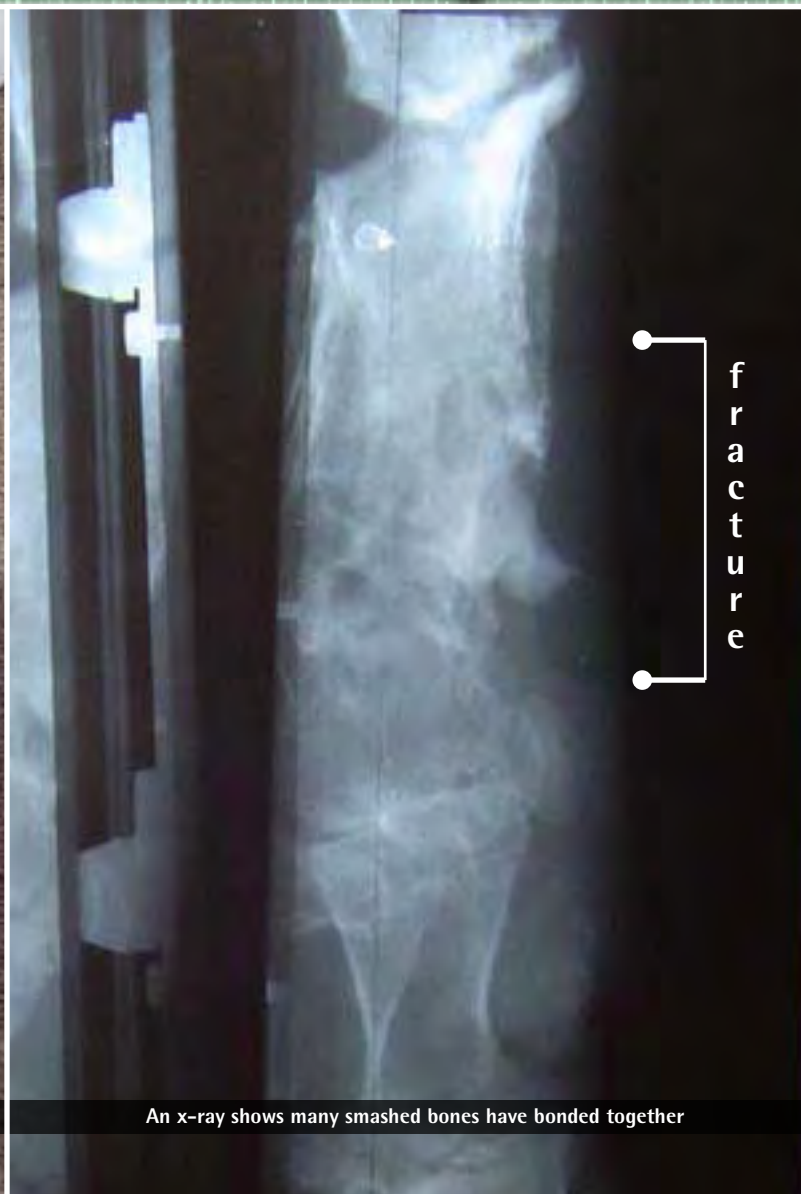
Biharilal arrived at CFC he was cleaned up and served lunch with his favorite porridge saved from breakfast.

Though he previously seemed indifferent to his new home and was resistant to his medical treatment, it was now apparent that Biharilal was happy to call CFC home.

Home to Stay



Two small wounds and horizontal scars mark top and base of the fracture site



An x-ray shows many smashed bones have bonded together



Biharilal satisfied with CFC as his home



Discharge is drained through a small wound sinus at the fracture site



A lightweight PVC cast makes sitting and standing easy for Sushila



The smaller digit shows half an inch of new nail growth

Making Progress

Sushila has been with CFC for six weeks, recuperating from a car accident at Govardhan which left her with a fractured front leg and missing digit on her back hoof.

Home now is the Sick Bay pen shared with Nakula, also from Govardhan, and she is often found sharing Nakula's pillows. She is an excellent companion to lift his spirits. This month Sushila was taken

to the Mathura Veterinary University for x-rays to check the healing progress of the fractured bones and find an answer to the cause of the constant discharge from the wound at the fracture site.



An x-ray shows three bone fragments connected to the main bone

The x-ray revealed bone fragments connected to the main bone, which may or may not partially break away. Dissolving fragments naturally form into an odorless discharge, which is present in

Sushila's wound and requires regular cleaning over several months before clearing. Surgery was not required to remove any bone fragments and the Doctor was satisfied with the bone's mending,

considering it was a difficult fracture to stabilize due to the high position on the leg.

More good news is Sushila's hoof nail is also gradually regrowing, so overall smooth sailing for Sushila this month!

How to Fall a Bull

In order to treat certain injuries it is required to make the patient sit or lay on the ground. In Braja there are two methods used to fall a cow or bull and in this article we will illustrate one of them.

A thirty-foot cotton rope which is at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter is the only tool required.

- ❶ The first step is to fold the rope in half and lay the looped end over the back of the animal as illustrated.
- ❷ Step two is to pass the two ends of the rope under the belly and through the loop.
- ❸ The third step is to slide one loop of the rope towards the hump of the animal and the other towards the pelvic girdle as illustrated. The hitches should be near the spine.



④ The fourth step is to firmly pull the rope in opposite directions thus tightening it around the torso of the animal. The pressure created by the tightened rope temporarily paralyzes the leg muscles and the animal will collapse.

Care must be taken that the area where the animal will fall is soft and free of any sharp objects. Soft sand or pasture is the ideal.

If the animal is frightened or unruly it is best to tie the two hind legs to the front one as in photo ⑤.

It is also important to pull the tail between the hind legs and keep it taught against the anus by pulling the tuft. (See photo ⑥) This will help prevent an anal or vaginal prolapse in the event the animal strains excessively during the treatment.

Our special thanks go to Kesava for so tolerantly posing for these photos.





Meet Mohan

My former owner was a simple night watchman who arranged for me to live at CFC in the summer of 2002 when I was about eight months old. At that time there were only about 25 residents so we all got a lot of attention. I remember when we moved to the Sundrakh facility and many more residents came and it got crowded even.

At one point the cowherd men decided they wanted to train us bulls to plow and pull the cart. Since I was old enough, they selected me to train with Madhu. I learned faster than the others and they suspected I was more intelligent and submissive.

One of the most time-consuming practices is teaching us to back-up. I have a natural liking to walking backwards and I used to do it in the barnyard even when we were not training. The cowherd men used to cheer when they would see me do it.

After a six weeks Madhu and I graduated and he began to assist in pulling the school bus. They decided that I should wait until I was a bit taller.

So while hanging out in the barnyard I used to watch the cowherd men open the gates as they went into the feeding and cooking areas. I





studied how they would lift the metal latch to release the gates so they could swing open and soon learned to lift the latch with my horn and open them myself.

After opening the gate I would sneak into either the feeding area or where they cooked the porridge and feast. Of course once the gate was opened, all the other bulls would follow me in and we would create havoc.

For some time the cowherd men thought that one of them was carelessly leaving the gates opened so none of us got in trouble. But one day one of the cowherd men saw me opening the gate into the cow's pen when one of them was in heat. That day about forty of us bulls got in and we had an unforgettable party.



After a short bout with Foot and Mouth Disease Mohan gets a clean bill of health.



Mohan lifts the metal latch with his horn and pushes the loose gate open with his nose in order to break in to the cooking area.

We have had to add a rope to all the gates in order to prevent him from opening them.



Mohan in the foreground training with Madhu

The cowherd man reported that I opened the gate using my horns so since that time whenever it happens they punish me by tying me up.

None of the other bulls could figure out how to open the gate but since they knew that I knew how, they would goad me to open it when no one was looking. I did it often but since the cowherd men knew I was the only one who knew how to open it, I would always be the one to get punished.



Mohan rests after the students leave the school bus

So then I decided that after opening the gate, I would back-up and let the others go first, hoping that they would be the ones to get in trouble instead of me, but it didn't work. I would still be the one that got tied up.

I thought I was smart but the cowherd men were smarter. Soon they began tying the gates shut with rope and I haven't been able to figure out how to untie them yet.

About a month ago they decided I was tall enough to be Ram's partner so I have been pulling one of the school busses with him. He is very strong and easy to work with so I am doing well.

Taking the village kids to school is not hard work and we get a long break before we bring them back home. Very often they give us some snacks so I am happy to do this service. It is better than sitting in the barnyard all day.



Mohan performing a curious tounge-twisting exercise



NAKULA'S

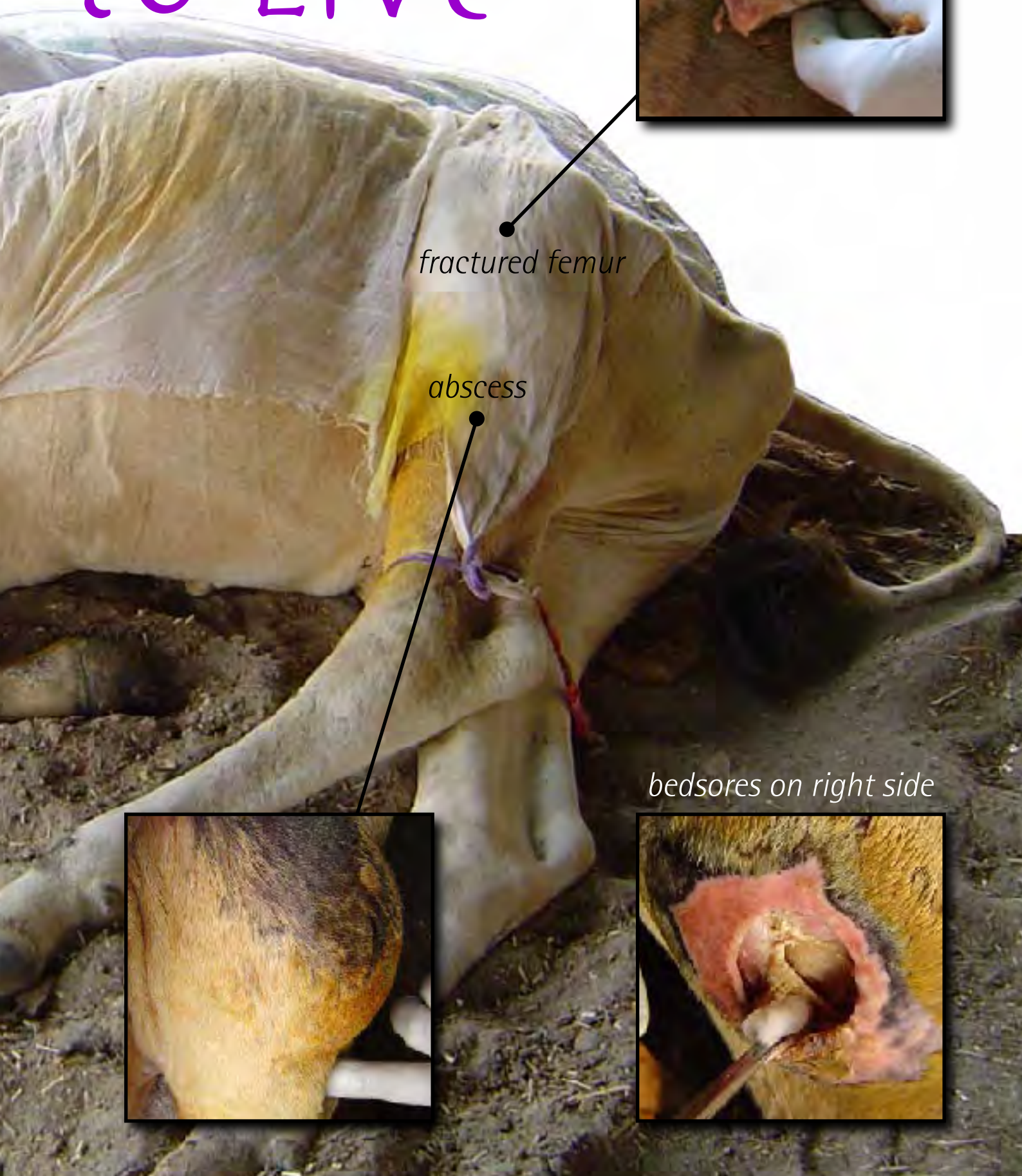


wound

fractured
arm



WILL TO LIVE



fractured femur

abscess

bedsores on right side





Front leg wound showing exposed bone in the wound's top left corner, 16 September 2007



Good healing after 2 weeks of wound care



By 21 October the bone was almost covered by new tissue

This month took its toll on Nakula's body as he struggled with internal infections, long running high fevers and increasing painful bedsores as a result of his injuries from the car accident in September.

As his body works to heal the leg fractures, regrow new tissue and fight infection, the resources have been sapped from his body as he has no appetite and eats very little. He has consequently lost a lot of weight. The greatest danger to Nakula was internal infection and after weeks of treatment he seems to have overcome it. A full month of appetite stimulants have kept him eating and ruminating so his digestive system does not shut down. He now looks forward to hot porridge at breakfast and treats of bread, watermelon and bananas.

Another difficult month lies ahead for Nakula and we pray he maintains his strong determination and will to live.



Back leg fracture 24 September 2007 - the cut femur bone and external wound. Internally, a 1 inch wide channel ran 5 inches deep alongside the bone.



After one week of wound care the internal channel is still deep, but narrowed by new tissue growth. White bone is visible top left of the channel.



Three weeks later, 21 October, the bone is covered by new tissue, the channel is very narrow and half the depth. The opening is simultaneously narrowing.



Two double abscess' developed on Nakula's fractured back leg



Forceps reach 4 inches deep into the elbow wound, 21 Oct



Dr Lavania drained 150ml of pus from the large abscess



Good improvement in the wound by October end



Both wounds were cleaned daily and were healing well by October end



During October Nakula's bedsores were treated with Citrus Bee hive honey, a potent wound healer and natural antibiotic



9 October Stage I and II pressure sores



One week later, sores across the ribs and hip developed into Stage II and III pressure sores



30 October, sores across the ribs were improving, the hip sore had developed into a Stage IV pressure ulcer





A Cow in Need

A fractured pelvis is a death sentence for a farm cow in the West, and for a dairy cow in India. In the West she would be seen as an economic liability and culled – in an ordinary dairy in India she would be left on the ground to die without proper care.

A common cause of a pelvis fracture in a cow is due to slipping on a wet or smooth floor, or being mounted by a bull and falling down with the back legs doing 'the splits'. A fractured pelvis is very painful, untreatable and the cow cannot get up for the rest of her life. At CFC we have received a few patient this year suffering a fractured pelvis, and early October another case arrived for care. Beside the fractured pelvis Mandakini had a deep wound on her left thigh and another infected wound on her left front leg. Both wounds are still in the healing process.



Mandakini arrived 11 October with a large, deep contaminated wound on her left thigh



A retention suture holds the wound dressing in place



29 October the wound is half the depth and filling in fast with new healthy tissue



Cleaning a front leg wound running 7 inches long in the subcutaneous tissue



Due to a fractured pelvis Mandakini cannot stand up and is changed sides by carefully rolling her over

To keep Mandakini as comfortable as possible while the fracture is still painful she is housed on soft Yamuna sand bedding, is changed sides regularly and is on pain relief medication. Late October she was able to change sides on her own one night which is a positive sign. Her diet and eating is closely monitored to avoid digestive disorders and other complications.

As Mandakini's energy goes toward healing she is unable to supply any milk for her month old daughter Vrinda, but watches on as she nurses from another mother cow. Her calf is with her throughout the night and then spends most of the day out in the main yard.

Since Mandakini's arrival a visitor from Germany has been coming every day to serve only her by showing her drinking water, encouraging her to eat, grooming and singing to her. She is very calm and peaceful in his company.



Mandakini finds a special friend in Holger from Germany



Cleaning the wound



Mandakini

I am from Govardhana and was sent to CFC by Sudevi. What happened to me is still a mystery. All I know is that I cannot get up to walk or nurse my calf and it is not easy for me to adjust to that.

Dr. Lavania examined me and announced that I

had a broken pelvis and that I would not be able to stand or walk again. I also have a deep gash on my hip that will take a long time to heal. I have some pressure sores here and there as I had been sitting on a hard surface before they brought me here.

What disturbs me the most is not being able to give milk to my calf. Now that I am sitting all the time I have stopped producing milk and the cowherd men have made another arrangement to feed my calf. We still get to spend a lot of time together though.

missions



Vrinda

I am Mandakini's calf and am confused about the recent changes in our lives. My Mother cannot stand up so I am distressed from not being able to nurse. Just after our arrival though,

a cow came from Varsana with a broken leg. She is lactating and allows me to nurse from her.

A few days after arriving here, a family from a faraway place visited

and offered to sponsor my maintenance. A few days after that, another family offered to sponsor my mother, so things are looking up for us here at Care for Cows.

New Admissions



Nitya Kisori

It is calculated that we spend eighteen hours a day ruminating. During that period we think and ponder many things.

Most recently I have been trying to understand

the following:

Of all the species on the planet humans are considered superior because of their greater intelligence. My question is, "If they fail to use their

good intelligence, are they still superior?"

India is said to be the most pious country owing to its religious culture and the people born there are said to be the most



fortunate. My question is, "If the residents of India abandon their culture, are they still the most fortunate?"

Among the people of India, those considered supremely pious and fortunate are the ones who take birth in holy places associated with Lord Kṛṣṇa's pastimes. My question is. "If those who take birth in Braja disregard Lord Kṛṣṇa's instructions and example, are they still special?"

These questions arise because recently I was grazing in Varsana and a farmer struck my leg with such force that my bone shattered into many pieces and part of it protruded out of my skin. I hobbled away on three legs to save my life.

If you meet that farmer tomorrow, he will no doubt greet you by saying "Radhe, Radhe!"

We hear that those who take birth in Varsana

are very dear to Srimati Radharani, the topmost *gopi*. My questions is, "If the residents of Varsana cripple cows, are they still dear to Srimati Radharani?"

When you next sit down to ruminate, please consider these questions.

In any case Dr. Lavania has cleaned my wound and is hopeful that in a few months I may regain partial use of it. Until then I am hobbling on three legs praying to Srimati Radharani to spare me from two-legged animals.



Out Patients



Govinda

I'm being kept in an *ashrama* about one hundred meters from Care for Cows and was brought here to have my udder treated for a maggot infested wound. All those black marks on my udder

are ticks. Nice, eh?

Anyone with two fingers could get rid of them in five minutes.

The *sadhus* in the *ashrama* take milk from me twice a day so you would think they could find time

to clean me up. But no—not one of them can give five minutes to relieve me of these itching ticks.

Since Bhakti is about giving it makes me wonder what they are really learning in the *ashrama*.

Out Patients



Raju

I sprained my rear leg while hauling clay for the potters in Vrindavan so my owner brought me here for treatment. They told him it would take about ten days to get me back in shape. No charge, but still he was

sunk as he wondered how he would make ends meet without income for ten days.

He smiled when they offered him the use of one of their resident oxen while I rest and recuperate. It

was a deal that's too good to be true.

News travels fast in the village so once the word gets out, I may be the beginning of a new community service—R&R for Oxen.



Girs are known for having a bulbous head and long curved ears. Above is a Gir cow from the herd of Sri Nathji in Nathwar, Rajasthan

In The News

Rajiv Satyajit Khachar from Gujarat, India is operating a *goshala* in Brazil where he is hosting 108 Gir cows. In 1992 one of his cows named Rupali was awarded the number-one milk producing cow in the world.

Rupali has a son

named Jasadana who was recognized as the best progenitor in the world.

According to animal breeding experts a Gir bull can father between 1,000-1,200 calves in his lifetime.

The cattle breeding department of the Brazilian government offered to

purchase Jasadana for US\$175,000 but Rajiv refused to sell him.

In 2004 Rajiv sold one of his Gir cows at an animal fair in Brazil for Rs.3,36,000.

Today there are about six million Gir cows in Brazil.

Thank You From the Cows



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

Alessandra Petrassi, Italy	Katyayani Dasi, USA	Radha Jivan Dasa, India
Ananda Dasa, Guatemala	Kaushal Khakhar, India	Radha Mohan Sevak, India
Anastasia Tsitsishvili ,USA	Labangalatika Dasi ,India	Radhapati Dasa, India
Anonymous ,Singapore	Madhva Muni & Kisori, Serbia	Ravinder Pathela, India
Aravind & Mandakini, Australia	Mahanidhi Swami, India	Rayan Koendjbiharie, Netherlands
Arpanna Dasi, USA	Manukanya Dasi, India	Rohini Devi Dasi ,India
Atul Gupta, India	Marianna Polonski ,USA	Roma Punjabi, USA
Bart Friso, USA	Mariya Genina ,USA	Srinivas & Radha Damodara, AUS
Braja Gopal Dasa, Switzerland	Melanie Mcdonald,USA	Suresh Vagjiani, UK
Carl & Stella Herzig, USA	Michael Meshuris, USA	Tarun Khandelwal, India
Daivi Sakti Dasi, India	Mohan Narain, Canada	Tatiana Leonova, USA
David Thornton, USA	Nayan Ruparelia, SA	Tracy Molina, USA
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Diptiman Chatterjee ,India	Pankaj Vohra ,India	Vidyasagar Lokhande ,USA
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Hemanth Ramanna,USA	Peter Liecheti, Switzerland	Vishaka Priya, Denmark
Jason Rapp, Australia	Pranil Bharath, SA	Vishal Kapil ,India
Jayadeva & Janaki, India	Purnachandra Dasa, India	Vishal Mehta, India
Jivananda Dasa, SA	Purnamasi Dasi, Portugal	Visvambhara Priya Dasi, USA
Katha Kanwar, India	Radha Caran & Krsnamayi, India	Vrindavan Lila Dasi, USA

May cows stay in front of me; may cows stay behind me; may cows stay on both sides of me. May I always reside in the midst of cows. —Hari Bhakti Vilas 16.252