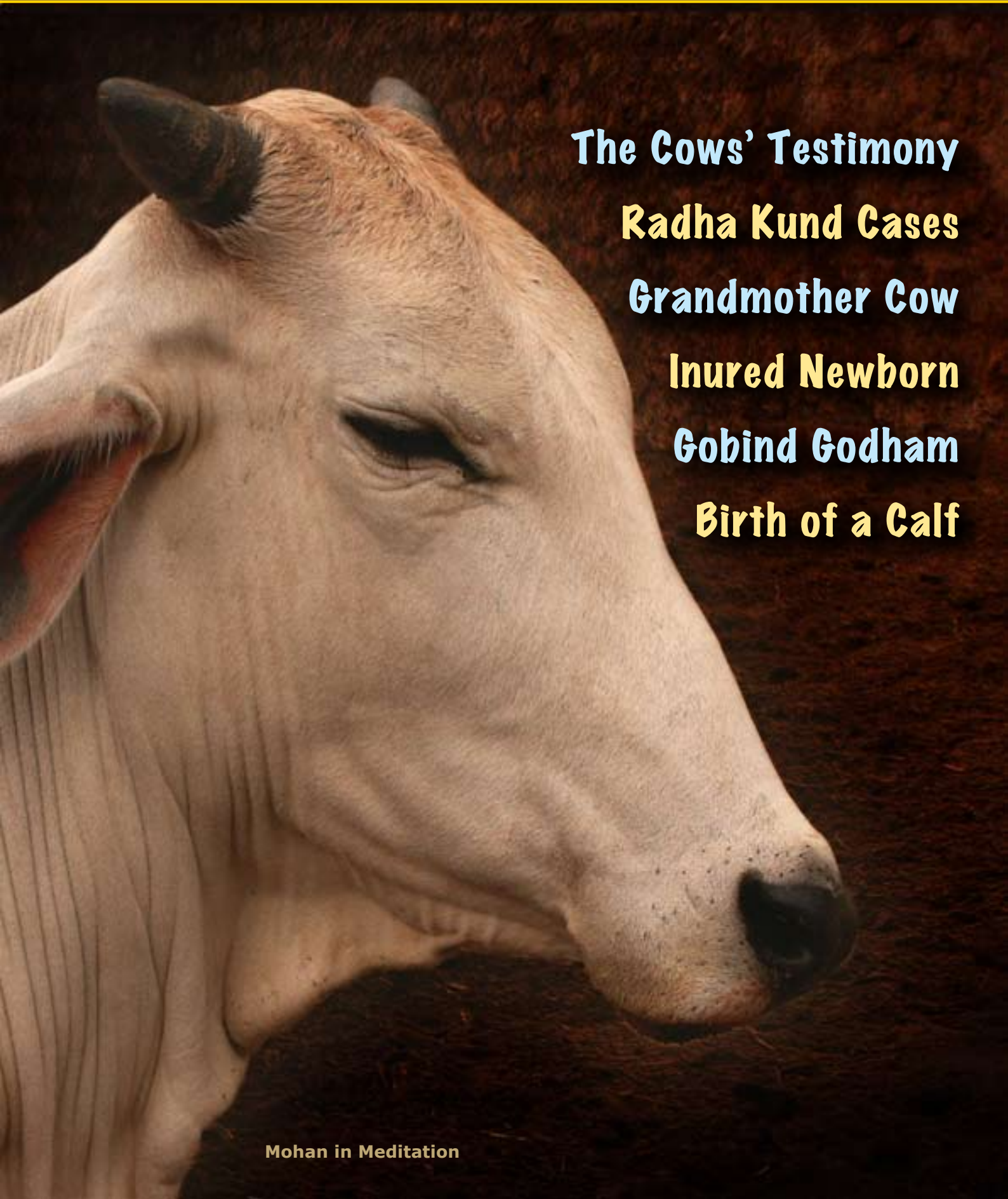


April 2007



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN



The Cows' Testimony

Radha Kund Cases

Grandmother Cow

Inured Newborn

Gobind Godham

Birth of a Calf

Mohan in Meditation

Birth of a Calf



A newborn calf, only a few minutes old, is groomed by Mom

The birth of a calf is always a joyous occasion and luckily at CFC all usually goes well for both the mother cow and her calf during and after the delivery.

Some admissions arrive at CFC already pregnant and in many cases their secret is kept right up until a few days before they give birth. Such was the case recently with Kanchana, who joined CFC late last year with an advanced eye injury which resulted in her losing the eye.

By mid-March Kanchana was 'showing' and Dr Lavania confirmed by a pregnancy examination that she was about six months. A few days later Kanchana was sitting out in the front yard and would not stand up to take her lunchtime meal, and it was soon discovered why - she was about to give birth. Understanding that the calf would be premature, there was tension in the air as all eyes were fixed on the bag of fluid that was already expelled and laid unbroken on the ground.

Then the first sign of life - a tiny, yellow hoof popped out into the bag of fluid and then disappeared back inside! This continued for some minutes and finally the unborn calf's nose also appeared and when it was clear that there was no going back, Syama Hari assisted the delivery by



First sign that birth may be within the hour



First popping out his tiny yellow hoof, then nose, the calf is delivery by CFC Carer Syama Hari



Clearing the mouth and nostrils of mucus to aid taking that first breath

catching hold of the calf's two front legs and pulling.

Out the calf slipped and within seconds it was in direct touch with the sacred dust of Vrindavan.



Kanchana is old her milk was less in quantity so her calf, named Svarna (Gold), was fed additional baby bottles of milk supplied by other mothers at CFC. He continues to improve

Immediately the calf's mouth and nostrils were cleared of mucus to aid respiration. The umbilical chord was cut, and the newborn was then cleaned up before being handed over to Mom with the happy

announcement "It's a boy!"

Though the calf was approximately one month premature he was able to stand assisted at one hour old and quickly mastered the art of how to drink milk. As

in strength and though still thin and wobbly he runs like the wind and is happy investigating his new surroundings and being greeted by all the other cow residents and human guests at CFC.



Cleaning up before seeing Mom



Homeopathic Remedies for calving difficulties

Cantharis - expels dead fetus

Caulophyllum - retained placenta

Aletris Famosa - prolapse

Arnica Montana - bruising of tissues after giving birth

Bellis Perenis - for bruising after a difficult birth or delivery of a large calf

Conium Mac - recumbency after giving birth (downer cow)

Sabina - retained fetal membranes

Cicuta Virosa - hypocalcemia 'milk fever'

Calc Phos - Calcium deficiency pre-calving

Twelve days old, Svarna explores his surroundings

Injured Newborn

Early in March a very young outpatient calf was brought into CFC for urgent surgery after losing his back left leg.

First reports of how the calf lost his leg were that a dog was responsible for chewing it off, however when the Doctor examined the injury he denied this could actually be the case.

It was suspected someone accidentally hurt the calf's leg which resulted in the tragic loss and tried to cover over his mistake. The calf was born at a dairy at Radha Kund and when news of his condition reached Sudevi she agreed to give him a home and arrange for his medical treatment.

After Dr Lavania examined

the injury he prepared for surgery as the exposed bone needed to be removed. Once the surgery was complete the Doctor dressed the wound and explained that new tissue would cover over the bone and he was hopeful of a relatively smooth recovery as the patient is young, otherwise healthy, and growing fast.



How such a very young calf lost his leg remains a mystery



The protruding bone is cut back with a wire saw

The little calf was a wonderful patient and when Sudevi embraced him he stretched his long neck and licked her chin which won everyone's heart. When Sudevi was asked if the dairy would supply the calf's drinking milk she laughed and said "Of course not, milk is expensive in India and they would be happy that they don't have to give any more milk for his maintenance so they can sell it and make money." Such is the sorry state of go-seva in India today. Sudevi has alternately arranged for the calf to nurse from one of her cows who supplies milk to her own calf and other orphans.

After his brief visit to CFC for medical treatment the calf was carefully bundled up and taken back home with Sudevi who continues his daily wound cleaning and dressing. He is recuperating well and has been named Giriraj.



Sharp bone ends are rounded back so as not to cause injury to the tissue



Dr Lavania dresses Giriraj's wound



Final bandage is wrapped on his stump



Sudevi embraces Giriraj after his surgery



Shamali at 32

Great Great Great Grandmother Shyamali

Almost forty years ago Kartika Baba and his disciple left Kolkata to move to Vrindavan. Among their few possessions was Shamali and her first calf. They understood that Go Seva pleases Lord Krishna so they treated Shamali with great respect.

They lived very humbly, fed Shamali well and kept her living area always clean. In the following years Shamali bore a calf almost every year and the Madan Gopal Goshalla developed from her offspring. Today it is maintained by several members of the *vaishya* community who are dedicated to maintaining the present herd of ninety.

Though the natural life span of a cow is an

average of 20 years, Shamali lived to the ripe old age of 34 and bore a total of thirty calves in her life. Two years ago she passed away and Kartika Baba organized a funeral procession with *kirtana* in her honor. They transported her body through the main streets of Vrindavan while many devotees loudly chanted the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra with *karatalas* and *mridanga*.

Today her remains lay in a small Samadhi in the main courtyard of the *goshalla* and pictures of her decorate the walls. The Madan Gopal Goshalla is a place where genuine service is offered to the cows by Vaisnavas who regard them as their mother.



Kartika Baba (center) steadies Shamali while his disciple garlands her



Shamali dressed up for Gopastami



The funeral procession



The stone on Shamali's Samadhi



Murari recuperating from a fractured leg

Radha Kund Cases

In March the CFC medical team again joined Dr Lavania on his monthly visit to Surabhi Goshala in Radha Kund. Sudevi had since the previous visit rescued twenty-five more calves from the street!

Of those new residents some suffered fractured legs, dog bites,

and open wounds. Dr Lavania made a quick check over the new cases, treated those requiring further medical attention, and then checked on the progress of the previous months patients. Rohini who had an amputated front leg required surgery to remove an inch of bone so the

tissue could close over the stump. Otherwise she is progressing well.

Laxmi also required further surgery to remove exposed bone and several bone fragments from her open leg wound. Though her wound is gradually healing she is weak and her morale is low.



Laxmi is stood supported in a make shift sling



Cutting bone with a wire saw



Dr Lavania examines the wound



Further surgery



Removing more bone from the old fracture site



Sudevi dresses Laxmi's wound



Laxmi is stood supported in a make shift sling



Cutting bone with a wire saw



Dr Lavania examines the wound



Further surgery



Removing more bone from the old fracture site



Sudevi dresses Laxmi's wound



Surgery on Ghanasyama's leg



Dr Lavania flushes the wound with diluted iodine through a syringe

Though under a year old Ghanasyama had suffered two major injuries, one leaving him lame in one back leg and recently a fractured joint in his left front leg which left him in a lot of pain and he could no longer stand.

Found in this condition on the street he was brought in for medical care. Dr Lavania cleaned the contaminated open wound and performed a small operation. Ghanasyama was stood supported in the calf sling everyday and his wound cleaned, but soon after on an Ekadasi morning, he gave up his battle and left his body.



Ghanasyama is served a bowl of fresh salad greens



Gobind

Gobind Godham is a well known Charitable Trust dedicated to cow protection in Ludhiana, Punjab established and managed by several prominent businessmen. They have taken more than 1,800 cows off the streets and are maintaining them in a five-star facility on the outskirts of the prosperous city.

One year ago two of the trustees, Sri S.D. Damija and Sri Satish Gupta came to Vrindavan in search for land to establish a Vrindavan branch of Gobind Godham. They invited two representatives of Care for

Cows to visit their facility in Punjab and requested them to assist with their Vrindavan branch.

In the months that followed Gobind Godham made an alliance with the Panchayati Goshalla of Vrindavan and together they have begun the construction of 23 cowsheds which will each host 130 cows on a ten-acre plot in Akrur Gao just off the Vrindavan-Mathura Road near the Pagal Baba Mandir.

Swami Krishnananda is providing inspiration and spiritual direction for the

project and is establishing a Kirtan Mandala near the two cowsheds which are already completed. He plans to reside at the facility much of the time to assure that the standard of care meets with their Ludhiana branch.

At present they have collected more than 180





Swami Krishnananda

Godham

cows from the streets of Vrindavan and will provide a place for at least three thousand. Their goal is to get all the abandoned cows off the streets of Vrindavan and acquire more land if necessary.

The facility in Akrur Gao will have a hospital for the cows and a kitchen and

residence facility for the medical staff and cowherd men.



Left: Dr. Upadyaya and staff members attend to new admissions.

Above and Right: Some of the abandoned cows, calves and bulls get adjusted to their new home.



Horn Cancer

Horn core carcinoma develops in both horned and dehorned breeds and is especially common in India. If caught at an early stage successful treatment is possible through surgical removal of the horn and tumor.

In Bhaktilata's case one horn had become soft on the underside and developed into a large tumor which was bothered by flies and had become maggot infested. As her condition deteriorated her owner waited until she was unproductive before approaching CFC to take the cow and her six month old calf. It was evident that she had been neglected for a long time and she suffered hair loss to an extensive area of her face from a build up of dry blood.

During the first wound cleaning on the morning of her arrival at CFC, necrotic tissue, thin layers of horn and maggots were removed from the growth. Dr Lavania was called to examine the cow and confirmed she suffered from horn cancer. He



Bhaktilata's condition on arrival at CFC



First wound cleaning, which removed necrotic tissue, thin layers of horn and maggots



Bhaktilata in her last days, spent at CFC

said her chances were fifty fifty at this stage and he would know more once he performed the surgery to remove the tumor and horn. Her surgery was scheduled for early April, a week after her arrival at CFC but she suddenly passed away on the afternoon of March 30.

Bhaktilata was placed in samadhi that afternoon and offered incense, Ganges water, maha flowers, garlands, and a harinama chadar. Many calves ran and danced around the samadhi site during the worship ceremony which was taken as an auspicious sign. All were relieved that Bhaktilata's suffering was brief.

Our service to Bhaktilata will be continued by caring for Bhakti Bija, her six month old bull calf.



An early departure with little suffering



Bhaktilata's bull calf named Bhakti Bija



The Cows' Testimony

An excerpt from *Go Seva Chamatkar*, Gita Press

In a village named Kasar Siramba there lived a great devotee of cows named Govinda das Maharaja. All the rooms of his *ashrama* except for his sitting and bed room, were used by his cows and he would spend his days happily serving them.

Once a number of his cows were lost and he reported this to the office of the Sub-collector. They discovered that some butchers had gathered them in the nearby Belvar market. He informed the police who questioned the butchers who presented

false evidence in the attempt to prove the cows belonged to them.

The police then asked Govinda das to prove that the cows belonged to him. He pointed at his cows and said, "They are my only proof. Only they can testify that they belong to me."

Upon hearing this all the people in the market began to laugh. "How can they testify if they cannot speak?" they asked.

The Sub-collector asked Govinda das, "You say these cows are yours but what is the proof they belong to you?"

"The *shastras* declare that the cows of the universe belong to the *tapasvis* and *brahmanas*," Govinda das replied.

The Sub-collector responded, "That type of proof applies in Dvapara-yuga but not in this age. Do

you have any documents to prove these cows belong to you?"

"No, I don't," Govinda das solemnly replied. "If after I call them, they come to me and show affection, will you then believe they belong to me?"

The Sub-collector and his staff agreed so Govinda das began to call the cows by name, "Ganga, Goda, Yamuna, Krishna, Savitri, Oh my mothers, please come!"

Hearing their master call, they broke free and ran to lick him lovingly. Seeing this, the villagers and even the butchers were surprised.

The cows then followed Govinda das back to the *ashrama* and went to their respective rooms. Since then Govinda das has always protected his cows from getting stolen.

Farewell Sambhu



Sambhu passed away at 9.45pm March 30. See the CFC March News for his full story



Life in the Streets

Join forces in the growing campaign to provide adequate homes for the many abandoned cows in Krishna's holy land.

Sponsor a cow, feed the herd for a day or donate to the Care for Cows Land Fund.

GIVE US SHELTER



CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN



Inspired by
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-Acharya
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Thank You From the Cows



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

Alessandra Petrassi, Italy
Amy Bardsley, USA
Annada dasi, India
Anonymous, Singapore
Branko Boro, Croatia
Daivi Sakti dasi, India
David Thornton, USA
Dhruva Maharaja dasa, India
Dina Sarana dasa, USA
Donia Salem, USA
Hendrika Hartsuyker, Belgium
James Carvalho, USA
Jennifer Olson, USA
John Perdue, USA
Jorgine Jensen, USA
Katyayani dasi, USA
Laksman Pujari, India
Mahasringa dasa, India
Maria Lasure, USA
Marianna Polonsky, USA
Meena Patel, India

Padma Sambhava dasa, NZ
Paul Coates, USA
Pradipta Chatterjee, USA
Radha Caran, Krsnamayi, India
Radha Jivan dasa, India
Rams Entertainment, USA
Rayan Koendjibiharie, SA
Richard Boyden, USA
Samuel M Walker, USA
Shirley Prins, USA
Sophie Rubinstein, USA
Sri Hari dasa, India
Stella Herzig, USA
Suan Ng, UK
Susan Hopgood, UK
Swayamprakash Krishnamurthy, USA
Tom Cotter, USA
Vaninath dasa, USA
Varun Juneja, UK
Vicky Moreland, USA
Yamuna dasa, India

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