



SANDARSHAN

Monthly Newsletter

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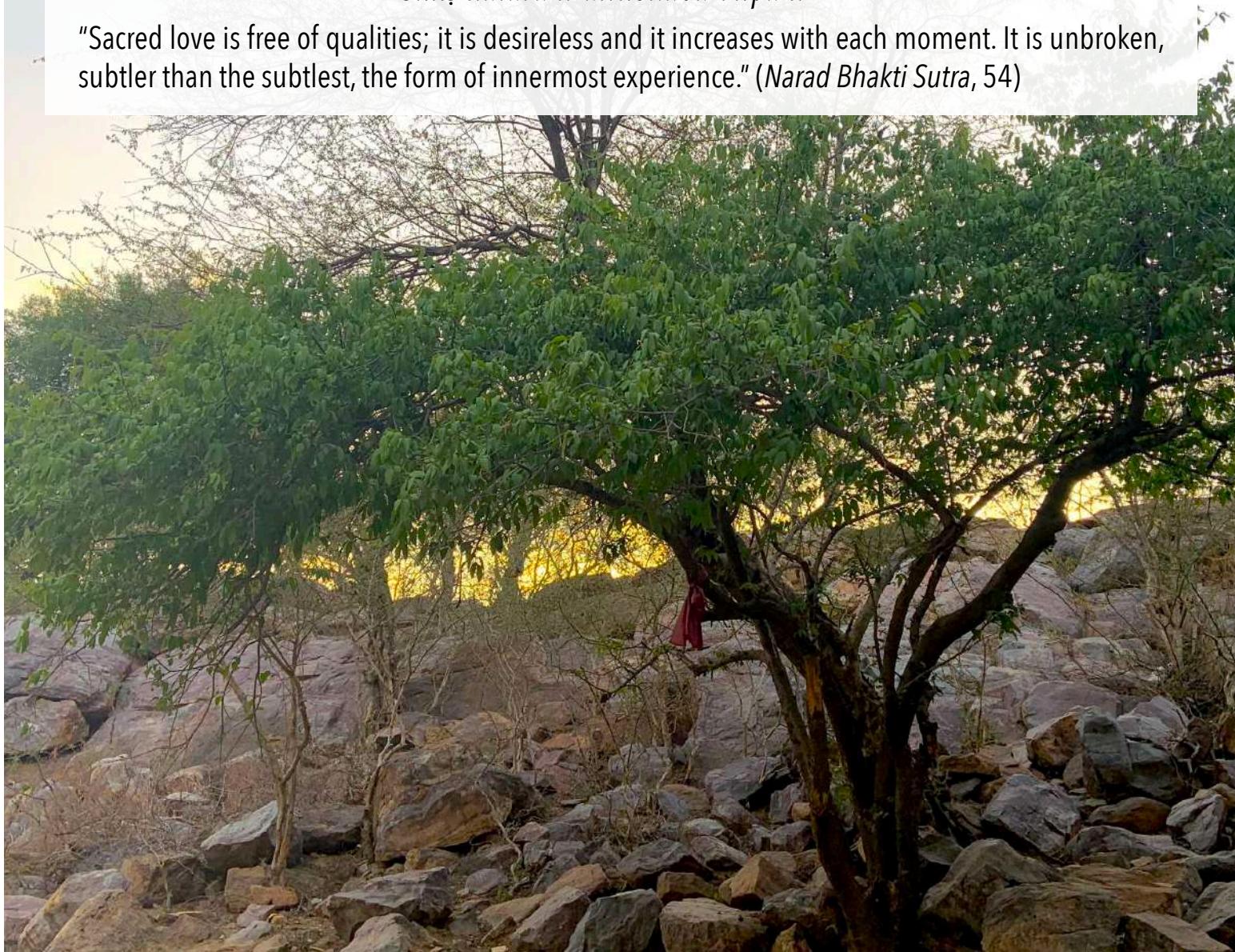
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Sacred Love is Free of Qualities by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj

गुणरहितं कामनारहितं प्रतिक्षण वर्धमानं अविच्छिन्नं सूक्ष्मतरमनुभवरूपम् ॥

*guṇa-rahitaṁ kāmanā-rahitaṁ prati-kṣaṇa vardhamānaṁ avicchinnam
sūkṣmataram-anubhava-rūpam ॥*

"Sacred love is free of qualities; it is desireless and it increases with each moment. It is unbroken, subtler than the subtlest, the form of innermost experience." (*Narad Bhakti Sutra*, 54)



The Lord is called "Bhagwan" because of the six main attributes (*bhag*) he possesses: wealth, fame, strength, knowledge, beauty and detachment. Sacred love is also a form of Krishn, and here, Sage Narad defines the Lord's six attributes in his form as sacred love.

The first attribute is *guna-rahitam*: free of qualities, and this can be illustrated by the following incident, which was published in a Spanish newspaper.

A beautiful woman, with long silky hair and sparkling teeth, used to visit a bar regularly. One night a man, who found her very attractive, approached her and started to compliment her by telling her how luscious her hair was, how beautiful her teeth were, and how stunning she looked. Whenever she would go to the bar, the same man would approach her and praise her beauty again and again.

One evening she asked him, "Do you really admire my beauty?"

"I have never known anyone as beautiful as you. You are the most gorgeous woman I have ever seen!" he replied.

"Then come home with me," she said.

So they went to her house and sat down, and she asked him, "Can you please tell me again how beautiful I am?"

"You are the most beautiful woman in the world. I have never seen such long and silky hair. It's as if God created you with his own

hands," he replied. The woman took off her wig and said, "Since you love my hair so much, let me give it to you! And since you are so fond of my teeth as well, here, take them." She pulled out her false teeth and gave them to him as well.

Seeing her without teeth and hair, the man was stunned and speechless, and he left the house silently. In this situation, the man's love was dependent on the woman's qualities and not the woman herself.

In this world, we tend to love others because we are attracted towards their beauty, power, money, intelligence, humility or other good qualities which they possess. But we love only as long as they have these qualities. Many relationships end when those good qualities fade or change with time or circumstances. Worldly connections fall apart, because what we perceive as love is actually a love of the qualities someone possesses, and not a love of the person himself. Thus, Sage Narad very clearly says that sacred love is free of qualities.

Worldly love is actually desire, which depends on the senses. But sacred love is not dependent on the senses, because without even seeing the Beloved, without hearing about the Beloved, without touching the Beloved, the love still blossoms in the lover's heart. (From *Way to Love*, Sutra 54, by Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj)



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami

- Part 1



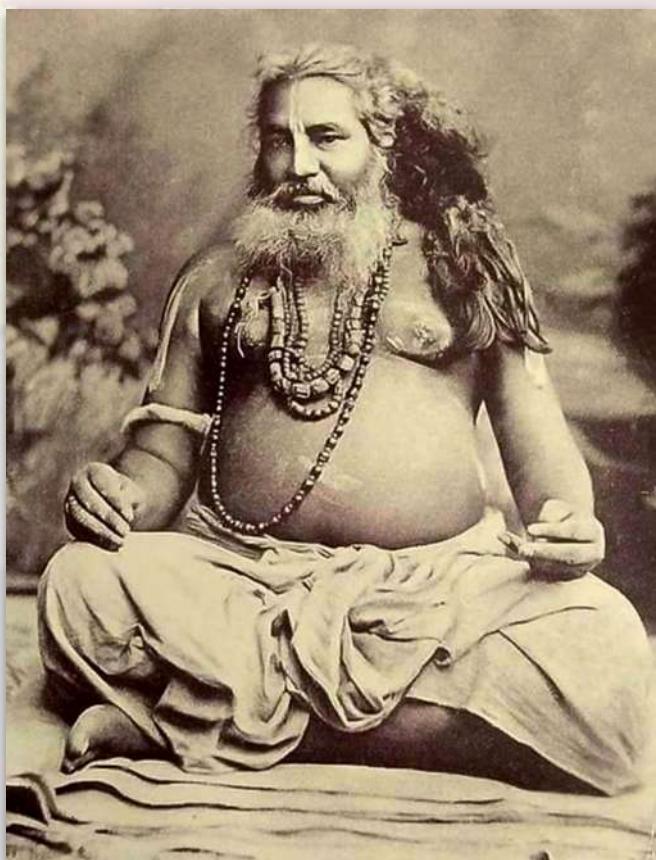
Vijaykrishn Goswami was born in 1841 C.E. to Anand Chandra Goswami, who was a seventh-generation descendent of Mahaprabhu's companion, Adwait Acharya. Vijaykrishn's father was also a well-known guru, and whenever he heard or spoke Hari Katha, the eight signs of ecstasy (*sattvik bhavs*) would appear on his body. He had performed a special austerity in hopes of getting a great soul as his son. He travelled about 600 kilometres from his ancestral home in Shantipur, West Bengal to Puri, Orissa – but instead of walking, he would lay flat on the ground with his face downwards and arms outstretched. Making a mark where the end of his fingertips touched the ground, he stood up, walked to that point and lay down again. It took him a whole year to complete the journey. By the time he reached Puri, he was extremely thin and his whole body was covered with wounds. Jagannath Dev granted his desire, and Vijaykrishn Goswami was born.

Vijaykrishn's mother, Swarnamayi Devi, had such a profound effect on him because she was also his *diksha guru*. His mother would give the clothes she was wearing to someone less fortunate, and seeing this, he would often give his own clothes and food away. He also had a close relationship with the family's ancient deity of Shri Shyamsundar. Once, the young Vijaykrishn even refused to eat because he said Shyamsundar didn't return his ball after a game. Vijaykrishn devoted a great deal of time to studying the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*,

and at the age of 18, his marriage was arranged to Yogmaya Devi.*

Things began to change for Vijaykrishn after his father entered *nitya lila* whilst delivering a discourse on the *Shrimad Bhagwatam*. Anand Chandra Goswami's disciples felt lost without him and they took shelter of the grieving Vijaykrishn, and simultaneously, many devotees now wanted Vijaykrishn to initiate them.

One day, an elderly lady came from a faraway place hoping to meet Vijaykrishn's father. After discovering that he had left for *nitya lila*, she



Shri Vijaykrishn Goswami

*To learn more about Yogmaya Devi, please read Sandarshan 39.

fell at Vijaykrishn's feet, weeping and begging, "I have suffered so much in this life that I cannot bear the pain anymore. Please help me break the bondage of *maya*."

But Vijaykrishn felt unworthy of this devotee's faith in him. "How can I even think of delivering anyone when I myself am bound?" he thought.

Vijaykrishn was also disheartened by the intense caste discrimination within the Hindu society of the time. All these incidents combined prompted him to give up being a guru, and even leave the Vaishnav path. Instead, he joined the Brahmo Samaj, which promoted social reforms, shunned caste and disregarded the personal form of God in favour of the impersonal Absolute. He also gave up his sacred thread (*janehu*) in protest, as a result of which his extended family and community rejected him. Only Yogmaya and her mother remained by his side.

Previously, Vijaykrishn and his family lived on donations given by disciples, but now they were left with no income whatsoever. Vijaykrishn attended medical school for some time, but was unable to complete his degree due to lack of funds. He left school and began to practice homeopathy, but he spent most of his time preaching for the Brahmo Samaj. He and his family lived in extreme poverty and often had to go without food. He and Yogmaya eventually had five children, making the situation more difficult.

It took twenty years for Vijaykrishn to rise through the ranks of the Brahmo Samaj, after which he began to receive free accommodation and a fixed regular salary sufficient for his family's needs. This allowed

him to devote more time to his personal spiritual practice.

One night, while Vijaykrishn was deep in meditation on the formless Absolute, there was a knock on the door. As he opened it, he saw many divine beings standing there and fainted. When he regained consciousness, his ancestor, Adwait Acharya, introduced him to Mahaprabhu and asked him to take a bath. In a trance-like state, Vijaykrishn followed Adwait Acharya's instructions. Then Mahaprabhu whispered a mantra into Vijaykrishn's ear and disappeared.

When his trance broke, Vijaykrishn was left with doubts. Was this experience just a dream? When he noticed his hair and clothes were completely soaked, he realised it was all real. About the incident he later said, "I was such an atheist at the time that I didn't recognise Mahaprabhu as God, but now I know he is *purn brahm sanatan* (the complete and eternal Lord)."

On another day during his meditation practice, Vijaykrishn's deity, Shyamsundar, opened the door and peered into the room. "Vijay!" he said. "You must make me a new set of gold ornaments!"

"Why me?" Vijaykrishn replied, "I don't even believe in you!"

"True, but even if you don't believe in me, there is no harm in making ornaments for me," replied Shyamsundar.

"But I don't have much money," he replied. "How will I purchase them?"

"Your aunt has many gold coins hidden in her little box. You can use that gold," said

Shyamsundar with a smile.

Shyamsundar's persistent charm worked so beautifully that Vijaykrishn broke down and gave in to his demands. He immediately left for Shantipur. When he told his aunt that Shyamsundar had asked him for ornaments, she scolded him, saying, "I cannot believe that Shyamsundar would ask an atheist like you to convey messages to me!"

"Look, whatever you think of me right now, I need to give Shyamsundar's instruction to you," replied Vijaykrishn, "He told me to use the gold coins in the box you've hidden over there." Hearing this, his aunt started crying and agreed to have the gold coins refashioned into jewellery for Shyamsundar.

By the time Shyamsundar received his jewellery, Vijaykrishn was back with his family in Kolkata. So Shyamsundar appeared to him once more, saying, "Vijay! Come back to Shantipur and see how beautiful I look in my new ornaments!"

"But I don't believe in you!" Vijaykrishn insisted.

"That's fine, but you can still appreciate my outfit!" Shyamsundar said with a smile.

Now, when Vijaykrishn tried to meditate on the impersonal Absolute, in his mind's eye, he could only see Shyamsundar. Despite all his resistance, he felt compelled to go to Shantipur that very day. By the time he reached the station, the last train to Shantipur had already left, so he went to Ranaghat instead and walked the last 20 kilometres from there to Shyamsundar's temple.

It was the dead of night by the time he

arrived, but after seeing Vijaykrishn's face, everyone agreed to open the temple for him. Vijaykrishn's heart melted as he took *darshan* of Shyamsundar in his new ornaments. He prayed, "If this is what you had in mind, then why did you steer me away from the path that leads to you?"



Radha Shyamsundar

Shyamsundar replied with a smile, "When old gold is formed into new ornaments, doesn't it sparkle so beautifully?" Hearing these words, Vijaykrishn Goswami fell into a trance of rapture.

To be continued ...

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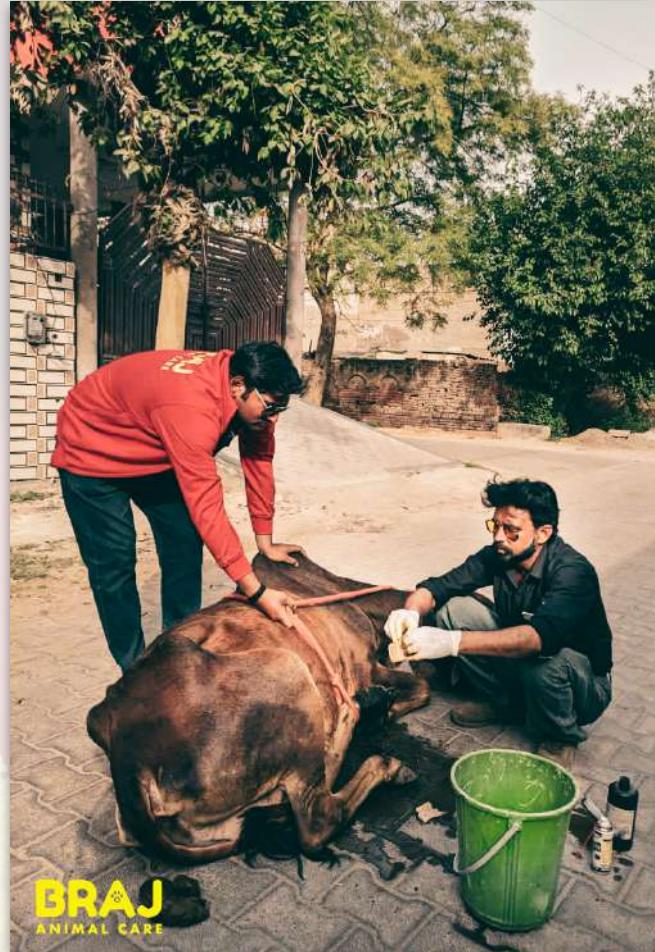
Braj Animal Care



Braj Animal Care has been dealing with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). This is a serious virus that affects cows and bulls, and causes them to suffer from blisters on their mouths and feet, along with fever, foaming at the mouth, extreme weight loss and impaired movement. FMD is very contagious and there is no medicine that can cure it. Thus in many countries, cows with this disease are automatically slaughtered to prevent the disease from spreading to all of their livestock and causing financial loss. But, if the necessary precautions are taken, with time, they can actually recover.

Recently, Braj Animal Care helped to treat a group of fifteen street cows and bulls who were all affected by FMD. We provided them with medicines to manage the symptoms, as well as antibiotics to eliminate secondary bacterial infections. The process of catching these large animals and restraining them while performing their treatment is lengthy and exhausting; however, when we see how much the treatment improves their quality of life, it is well worth it.

If you feel inspired to help the animals of Braj, why not become a monthly patron of our medical program? This would help strengthen our base as we provide vital medical care to hundreds of homeless animals each month. We are looking for friends to commit £18



BRAJ
ANIMAL CARE

A FMD patient receiving medical care

(\$25/€21/₹1800) per month, although any amount is helpful.

We also invite you to view Braj Animal Care's new mini-documentary. [Click here](#) to watch the film.

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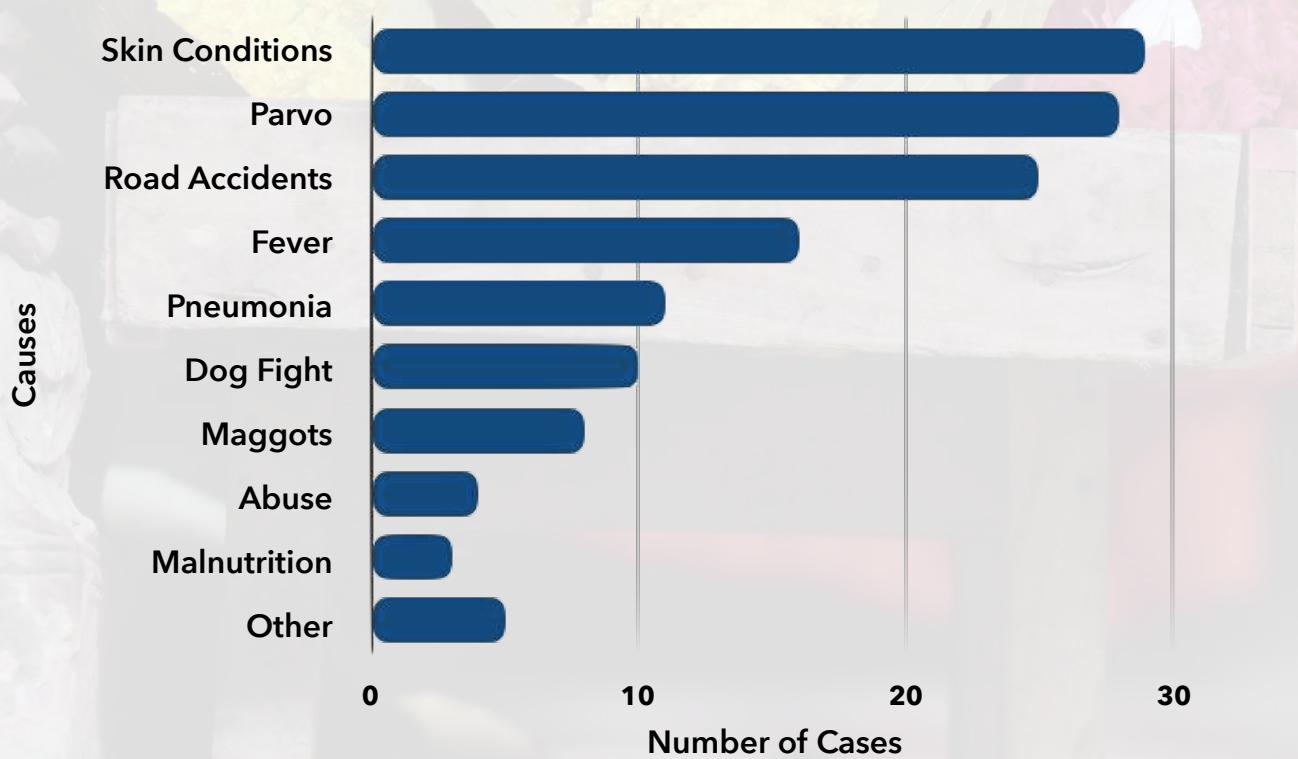
February Medical Cases

In February 2021, Braj Animal Care completed 207 treatments. This low number is due to a combination of reduction of traffic, low prominence of maggots, and reduced overall activity of local animals in the cold season.

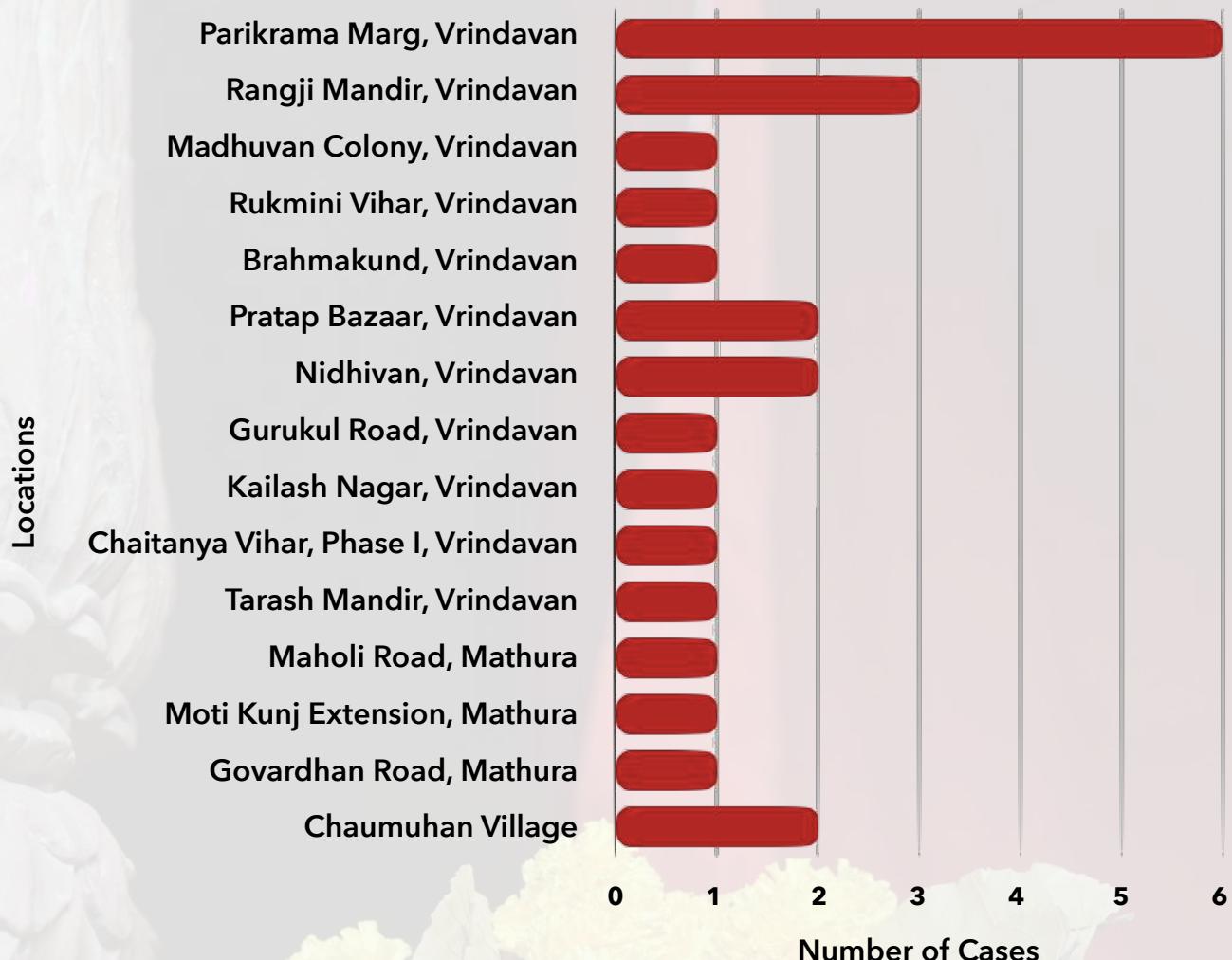
- 147 of these treatments were new patients, 57 were follow-up treatments for existing patients, and 3 were treatments performed in assistance to the local wildlife authorities or other groups
- The primary causes of suffering in all new cases we took on or assisted with were: parvovirus (28 cases), road accidents (25 cases), mange and other skin conditions (29 cases).
- Additionally, we also treated 16 cases of fever, 11 cases of pneumonia, 10 cases of injury by dogfight, 8 cases of maggot infestation, 4 cases of abuse, 3 cases of malnutrition, 3 cases of electric shock, 3 cases of digestive difficulties, 2 cases of foot-and-mouth disease, one case of cancer, one case of food poisoning, and administered one parvo vaccination.
- Of all new traffic accident cases we took on or assisted with, the majority were on the Vrindavan *parikrama marg* and nearby areas.

Please [click here](#) to read a detailed report about our February 2021 medical cases, including our recommendations on how to prevent many of these cases from happening in the first place.

Causes of Suffering



Locations of Traffic Accidents



Maharajji's Latest Updates

On March 7th 2021, Shri Chandan Goswamiji Maharaj and his disciples participated in a beautiful procession starting from the Shri Radharaman Temple. In the form of a *chitrapat* (picture), Shri Radharaman Lal was taken on a tour of Vrindavan and the Kumbh Mela grounds, accompanied by joyous *sankirtan*.

Also, from June 8th to 23rd, Shri Radharaman Premotsav will be held in the Shri Radharaman Temple. During this period, Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj and his family will be in seva, and Radharamanji will be offered special temple decor, elegant *shringaar* and exquisite *raag seva* for his enjoyment.



Our usual *sankirtans* have been temporarily postponed due to COVID-19, however regular virtual *sankirtans* are being held. We welcome you to join our online *sankirtan* programs on the following dates:

April 11th, 2021

April 25th, 2021

To receive the meeting links and for updates on further programs, please join our WhatsApp group [Chandan Goswami Uvacha](#).

You can also receive Maharajji's association through his recorded *kathas* on YouTube at [ChandanjiOfficial](#) and [ODevOfficial](#). For more information about Shri Radharaman Lal and Maharajji, please contact us at

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Vaishnav Calendar

For upcoming festivals and Ekadashi dates, please click [here](#) to view our Vaishnav calendar.