



SANDARSHAN

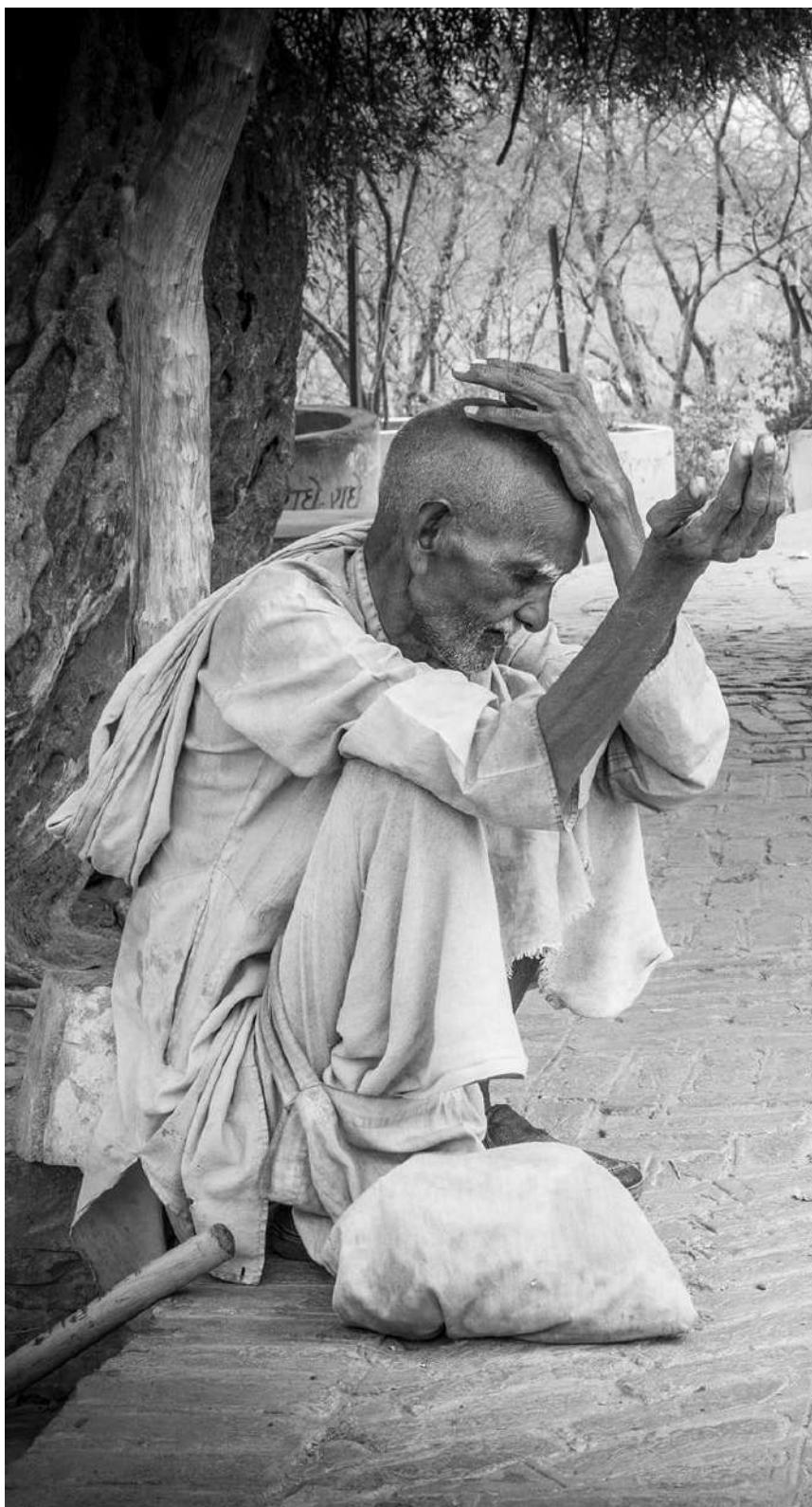
Monthly Newsletter

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Dedicated to Him Alone by Chandan Goswami

तस्मिन्ननन्यता तद्विरोधिषुदासीनता च ॥

tasminn-ananyatā tad-virodhiṣūdāśīnatā ca ॥

"Restraint (*nirodh*) means to be completely dedicated to him alone, and to have no interest in things that oppose him." (*Narad Bhakti Sutra*, 9)

One who serves the Lord is taken care of by him. As we try to give up all social and religious actions that are opposed to devotion, the mind needs to make adjustments. This *sutra* states that we need to be totally absorbed in the Lord with exclusive focus (*ananyata*), and in return, the Lord will take care of us.

Often on this spiritual path, we may get frustrated in life and lose interest for the objects of worldly enjoyment. But this is not real renunciation if the mind is not fully absorbed in the Lord. The true

meaning of renunciation is detachment from worldly desire and attachment to Krishn. If the mind is partially absorbed in the Lord and partially in the material world, the mind's flow towards him will be obstructed. We need to focus our mind exclusively on him, and develop complete indifference to material objects. This meditation will bring us closer to the Lord. In the *Bhagwad Gita* (9.22), Krishn promises the same:

"I personally take care of my devotees who constantly think about me and nothing else. I conserve what they have and I carry to them what they do not have."

In the Sanskrit version of this verse, the word *ananya* is used, which means "exclusive". Exclusive devotees are those who have no

other goal but the Lord. In his commentary on this *Bhagwad Gita* verse, Keshav Kashmiri states:

"This means serving him with your whole heart and soul. Because of the all-encompassing nature of their devotion, such devotees sometimes forget to take care of their own physical, sensory and mental needs. In this case, the Lord himself arranges for their care and provides for all their needs. He protects them in every way from any situation that could stop them from attaining him in this very lifetime."

(From *Way to Love: A Commentary on the Narad Bhakti Sutra, Sutra 9*, by Chandan Goswami)

Anandi Bai and Her Son, Anand Vallabh



Anandi Bai was born in Kartik month of the year 1855 CE, in a lineage of Kashmiri Brahmins who lived in Amritsar. Her ancestors were the family priests of Motilal Nehru's ancestors, and her father was an inspector for the city government.

From her childhood, Anandi Bai was completely fixated on Shri Krishn. As she grew up, her marriage was arranged by her parents, but the fiancé they chose for her suddenly died. Anandi Bai felt this was a sign from Krishn that married life was not for her, and her parents agreed not to force her to marry.

Soon after, Anandi Bai received *diksha* from Acharya Vanshidharji Maharaj of the Ramanuj Sampradaya. Although her guru's lineage worships Narayan in Vaikunth, she remained immersed in the mood of Vrindavan, serving her deities of Shri Radha-Anand Vallabh in *vatsalya bhav*.

After her parents passed away, Anandi Bai moved to Vrindavan. In 1906 CE, she purchased a place in Radhavallabh Ghera, and established a temple there. For Anandi Bai, Anand Vallabh was her son, and Radha was her daughter-in-law. Her connection with them was so strong that her deities



Anandi Bai with her children

used to respond to her. They would often tell her exactly what they wanted to eat, how they wanted to be dressed, and so forth. Anandi Bai would often go to great lengths to provide for her children. Once she even travelled all the way to Lahore to find the perfect cloth for their new dresses. When they so desired, she would ask different musicians to come and perform for them too. Many devotees used to come to her little temple for *darshan*.

Halwa, a dessert made from semolina, was one of Anand Vallabh's favourite treats. Sometimes he would even wake Anandi Bai at two in the morning to cook *halwa* for him. Once when Anandi Bai went to Haridwar to collect donations for Anand Vallabh's seva, Anand Vallabh came to her in a vision and told her, "Maiya! Please come back! The *pujari* forgot to feed me my *halwa* last night." She returned to Vrindavan right away.

Anandi Bai loved serving devotees. Her kitchen was always open, and no matter what time of day anyone came, she was always ready to feed them *prasad* with so much affection. Many *sadhus* and beggars used to sleep in the ancient, red sandstone hall of Radhavallabhji's old temple. And so, every night, Anandi Bai would take a walk around Radhavallabh Ghera to see if anyone was about to go to sleep hungry. If she found anyone who hadn't eaten, she would feed them before she herself ate.

As Anandi Bai got older, her health began to worsen. Once, she was unable to get out of bed for a long time. After about eight days, some devotees heard her talking to someone in her room, saying, "Why did you two come up here? You know I haven't bathed in a long time. Please don't touch me, you could get sick yourself!" The next day her sickness was gone.

Anandi Bai left this world in 1936 CE. It is said that just as her funeral pyre was about to be

lit, a young Brajwasi girl appeared and said, "Anandi Bai was my mother-in-law. Please allow me to honour her by lighting the pyre." As soon as the little girl lit Anandi Bai's funeral pyre, she disappeared. For many days after that, the devotees of Vrindavan discussed amongst themselves. "Who was that little girl who came with so much love to send Anandi Bai off to the eternal *lila*?"

Reference

Braj ke Bhakt by Dr. OBL Kapoor



Dainya Vilap by Narottam Das Thakur



हरि हरि! बोडो शेल मरमे रहिलो ।
पाइया दुर्लभ तनु श्री कृष्ण भजन बिनु
जन्म मोर विफल होइलो ॥

*hari hari! bodo shel marame rahilo ।
paiya durlabh tanu, shri krishn bhajan binu
janma mor viphal hoilo ॥*

Hari Hari! This human birth is so hard to attain, but after receiving it, I still cannot do Shri Krishn's *bhajan*. My life is wasted, and the intense pain is piercing my heart.

ब्रजेन्द्र नन्दन हरि नवद्वीपे अवतरी
जगत भरिया प्रेम दिलो ।
मुझ शेइ पामर मति विशेषे कठिन अति
तेई मोरे करुणा नहिलो ॥

*brajendra nandan hari navadvipe avatari
jagat bhariya prem dilo ।*

*mui shei paamar mati visheshe kathin ati
tei more karuna nahilo ||*

Krishn himself took birth as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in Navadwip, and filled the whole world with prem. But I am such an unkind and ignorant person that his mercy could not reach me.

स्वरूप सनातन रूप रघुनाथ भट्ट युग
ताहाते ना होइलो मोर मति ।
दिव्य चिन्तामणि धाम वृन्दावन हेनो स्थान
शेइ धामे ना कोइनु वसति ॥

*swaroop sanatan roopa raghunath bhatt yuga
tahate na hoilo mor mati ।
divya chintamani dham vrindavan heno sthan
shei dhame na koinu vasati ||*

I long to become absorbed in thoughts of Swaroop Damodar, the six Goswamis and Mahaprabhu's other companions, but I am not able to. I know Vrindavan can grant all my devotional desires, but I am unable to make that divine land my home.

विशेष विषये मति नहिलो वैष्णवे रति
निरन्तर खेद उठे मने ।
नरोत्तम दास कोहे जीवन उचित नहे
श्री गुरु वैष्णव सेवा बिने ॥

*vishesh vishayye mati nahilo vaishnave rati
nirantar kheda uthe mane ।
narottama das kohe jivan uchit nahe
shri guru vaishnava seva bine ||*

I have so much love for material objects, but absolutely no love for devotees. The regret has overshadowed my heart. The poet Narottam Das says, "Life is not worthwhile without the seva of Shri Guru and the Vaishnavs."



Braj Animal Care



Our friend, Fluffy

October was our busiest month so far at Braj Animal Care. We performed 322 treatments on suffering street animals; our highest number yet. Unfortunately, this month we had to say goodbye to our very first patient, Fluffy. After his foot was run over by a vehicle, he was left with a lot of exposed bone and flesh.

We only learned of his situation about a week after the accident, and by then his entire leg was infected and full of maggots. Treatment began, and it looked like he would recover, but unfortunately, Fluffy caught the devastating canine parvovirus as well. His body was not able to cope and he quickly passed away. We buried him on the bank of the Yamuna River here in Vrindavan.

But there were many happy stories this month, too. For instance, if you watched our short film "[A Day with Braj Animal Care](#)", you may remember the bull calf whose head was half eaten by maggots. We are thrilled to report that he has reached an advanced milestone of recovery. Miraculously, most of his head has grown back! We are so very happy for him.



The bull calf when we first met him (left - image blurred), versus today (right)

October Medical Cases

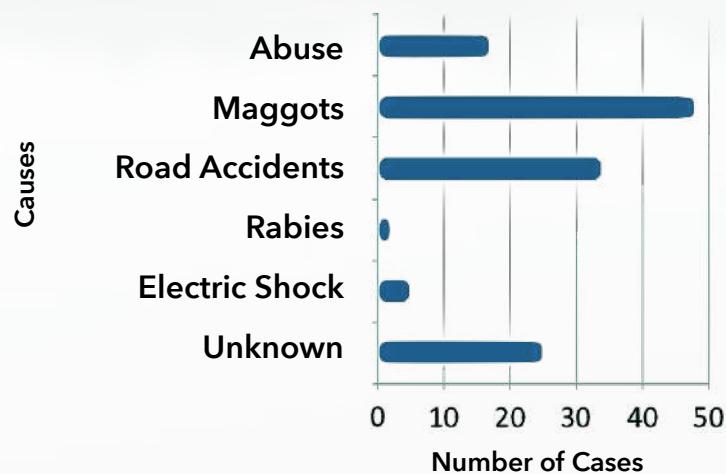
In October 2020, Braj Animal Care completed 322 treatments.

- 51 of these treatments were new patients, 191 were follow-up treatments for existing patients, and 80 were treatments performed in assistance to the local wildlife authorities or other groups
- Of new BAC patients only, 14 were cows, 36 were dogs and 1 was a bird.
- The primary causes of suffering in all new cases we took on or assisted with were: maggots (48 cases), road accidents (34 cases), abuse (17 cases), electric shock (5 cases) and rabies (2 cases). The causes of 25 cases were unknown.
- Of all new traffic accident cases we took on or assisted with, the majority were on Vrindavan's Parikrama Marg, with the old Mathura-Vrindavan Road at a close second. The graph on the following page contains the full breakdown.

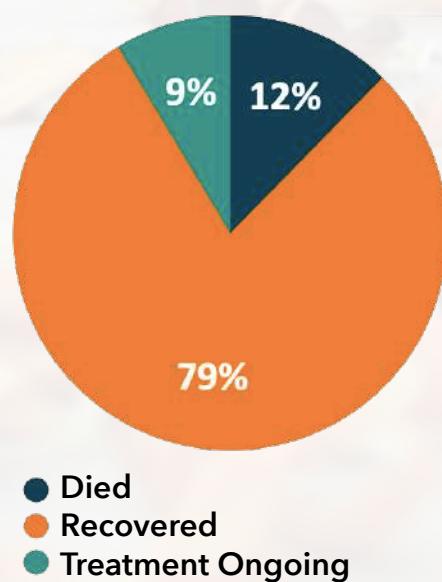
Please [click here](#) to read a detailed report about our October 2020 medical cases, including our recommendations on how to prevent many of these cases from happening in the first place.

To learn more about how you can help, please visit [our website](#) or message us on [WhatsApp](#). For daily updates, please click to follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), or join our [WhatsApp Group](#).

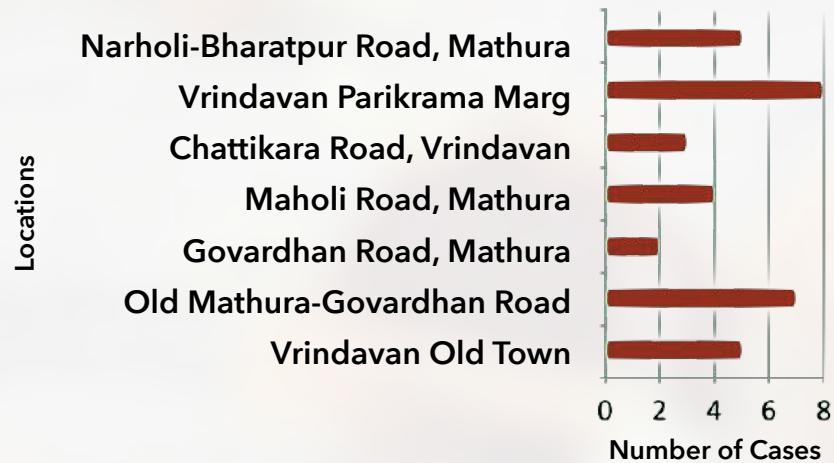
Causes of Suffering



Survival Rates



Road Accident Locations





Maharajji's Latest Updates



In November 2020, Shri Chandan Goswami Maharaj remained busy in Vrindavan meeting with devotees, performing Kartik austerities and looking after Braj Animal Care. He is currently giving weekly online lectures on the topic of the mind, in English with live Spanish translations. To join these programs, please follow [Maharajji's Spanish Facebook Page](#).

The previous month, Maharajji gave a series of [lectures on Shri Guru Ashtakam](#). We invite you to follow Maharajji's [Facebook Page](#) for more updates. 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:

December 6th, 2020

December 13th, 2020

December 20th, 2020

December 27th, 2020



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 odev108@gmail.com or WhatsApp us on [+91 83687 83201](#).

Vaishnav Calendar

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

