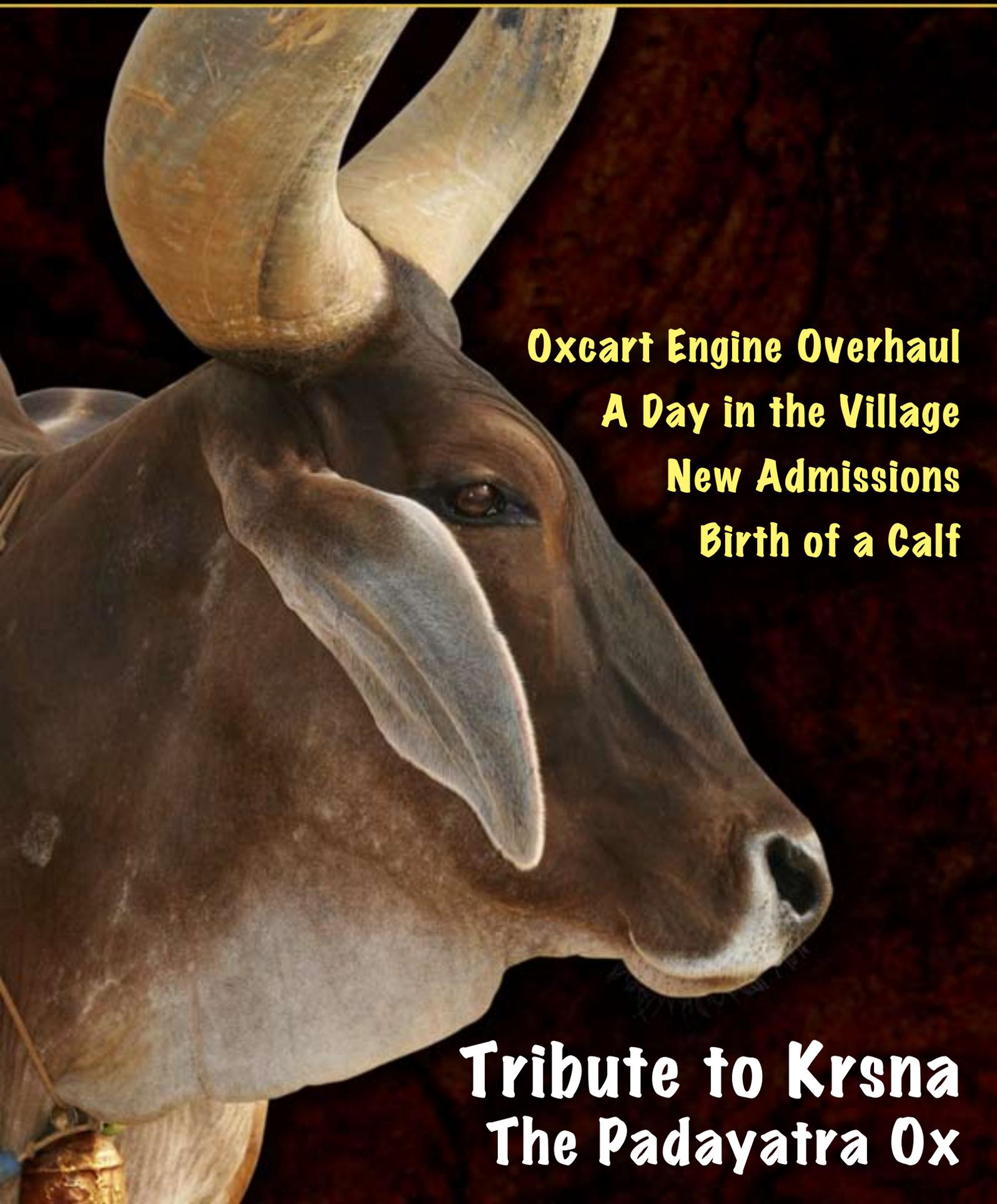


February 2008



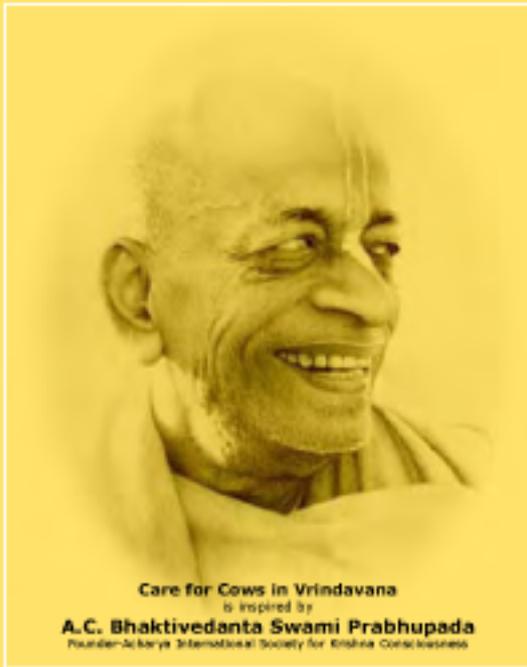
CARE FOR COWS

I N V R I N D A V A N



Oxcart Engine Overhaul
A Day in the Village
New Admissions
Birth of a Calf

Tribute to Krsna
The Padayatra Ox



Care for Cows in Vrindavana
is inspired by
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder-acharya International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN

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

Dear Friends,

At dawn a villager came to the gate with his bellowing cow trailing behind. The bulls became alert understanding she was in heat.

The man said, "My cow needs one of your bulls." I asked him, "What's the matter with your bull?" He answered, "I don't have one."

"You don't have one because you abandoned him in the street thinking he was useless, right?"

He lowered his head and said, "That's right."

"I took him off the street and now he's healthy and strong. Do you still think he's useless?" I said.

"No... of course not," he said shyly.

"So he's worth something, right? What will you offer him to service your cow?" I asked.

He smiled showing his red teeth, "I'm a poor Vrajabasi... please do some service for me."

"But I already have," I said. "I have taken your bull off the street and fed him."

"Yes... so please do a little more since I am poor," again smiling.

"If you're poor how do you feed your cow?" I asked.

"We have hay... we have some wheat and barley," he said.

"So then, can you offer some to my bull?"

"No, I can't."

"Will you give him one Vrajabasi *roti*... some *gur*... or a liter of milk?"

"No."

"So what will you offer?"

"When my cow dries up, I'll give you the calf. And when my cow gets old and yields no more milk, I'll give her to you."

While he tied her next to Kesava I contemplated, "Because I do him a favor, he reciprocates by offering me his debts... free of charge. How would he reciprocate if I did him no favors?"

The CFC Staff

careforcows.org

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



KRSNA AT THREE YEARS OLD



Tribute to Krsna

The Padayatra Ox

Krsna was purchased along with his partner Balaram in a small village in Gujarat near the famous holy place of Dvaraka. Under the care of His Holiness Lokanath Swami Maharaja, Jaya Vijaya dasa and Sanak Sanatana dasa Krsna and Balarama joined the Padayatra and began pulling the cart South when they were about three-and-a-half years old.

They are both of the Kankrej species which is known for being able to survive on a wide variety of vegetation and are thus ideal for traveling all over India. They are described as having a narrow face and broad forehead which is slightly dished. They have massive horns which arch

upwards and are often symmetrical. Their color varies from silver to dark grey and they are some of the best draught animals in India. Krsna was almost black and Balarama was



Krsna and Balaram resting on the road

silver and slightly bigger... hence they were named after Krsna and His elder brother Balarama.

Balaram was the dominant of the two and they bonded as they pulled the cart of Sri Sri Nitai

Gaurasundar throughout the Indian sub-continent. A life size murti of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada graced the cart which was always accompanied with hari nama sankirtan.

Jaya Vijaya Dasa recalls that Krsna was one of the most intelligent oxen that powered the Padayatra. Sanak Sanatana dasa says that Krsna was very dutiful and was happy when he was in the front pulling the cart. He disliked to be in the back training

behind.

Krsna and Balaram worked shoulder to shoulder for several years until Balaram developed horn cancer which is a common ailment in the Kankrej species. He died several years before Krsna

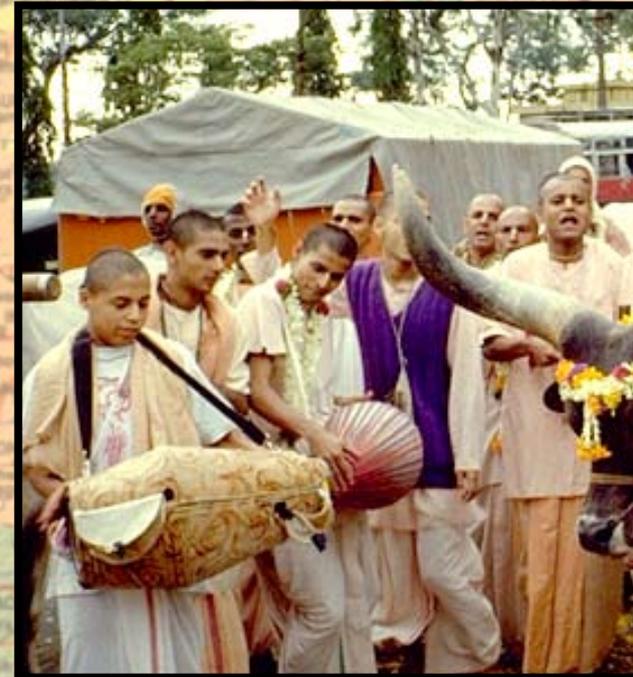


Krsna and Balarama on the road



Krsna on the road

PADAY



I N D





Balarama on the road



Krsna at Kumbha Mela 2001

YATRA



DIYA







who was saddened by his departure.

After completing the second circumambulation of India and arriving in Vrindavan for the annual Braj Mandala Parikrama in 2001, H. H. Lokanath Swami Maharaja, Istadeva dasa and Sanak Sanatana dasa discussed the future

of Kṛṣṇa. He was still able to work for a year or more but they feared when he reached his limit they may not be in such a favorable place to retire him. After much discussion, they decided to retire him early so that he could spend his last years in Sri Vrindavan.

Kṛṣṇa was not happy

with this decision as he wanted to continue serving on Padayatra. Not understanding the wisdom and concern of his protectors, Kṛṣṇa protested by being irritated and unruly for almost a year. We brushed him for hours, took him for long walks and built him a cart, but nothing seemed to pacify him (See our June and July 2006 Newsletters).

Adi Purusa dasa used to take him on walks and recalls and old farmer driving a tractor once approached from the

August 17, 2001

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that the ISKCON Padayātrā, Founder-Ācarya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupāda is officially retiring the most Noble of its Bulls

Kṛṣṇa

In greatest appreciation for the invaluable service the Noble Kṛṣṇa has performed by pulling the Blessed Cart of Their Lordships Śrī-Śrī Nitai-Gaurasundara for ten years around the entire Indian Sub-continent, he is being awarded retirement and blessed to spend his remaining days in Śrī Vr̥ndāvana Dhāma.

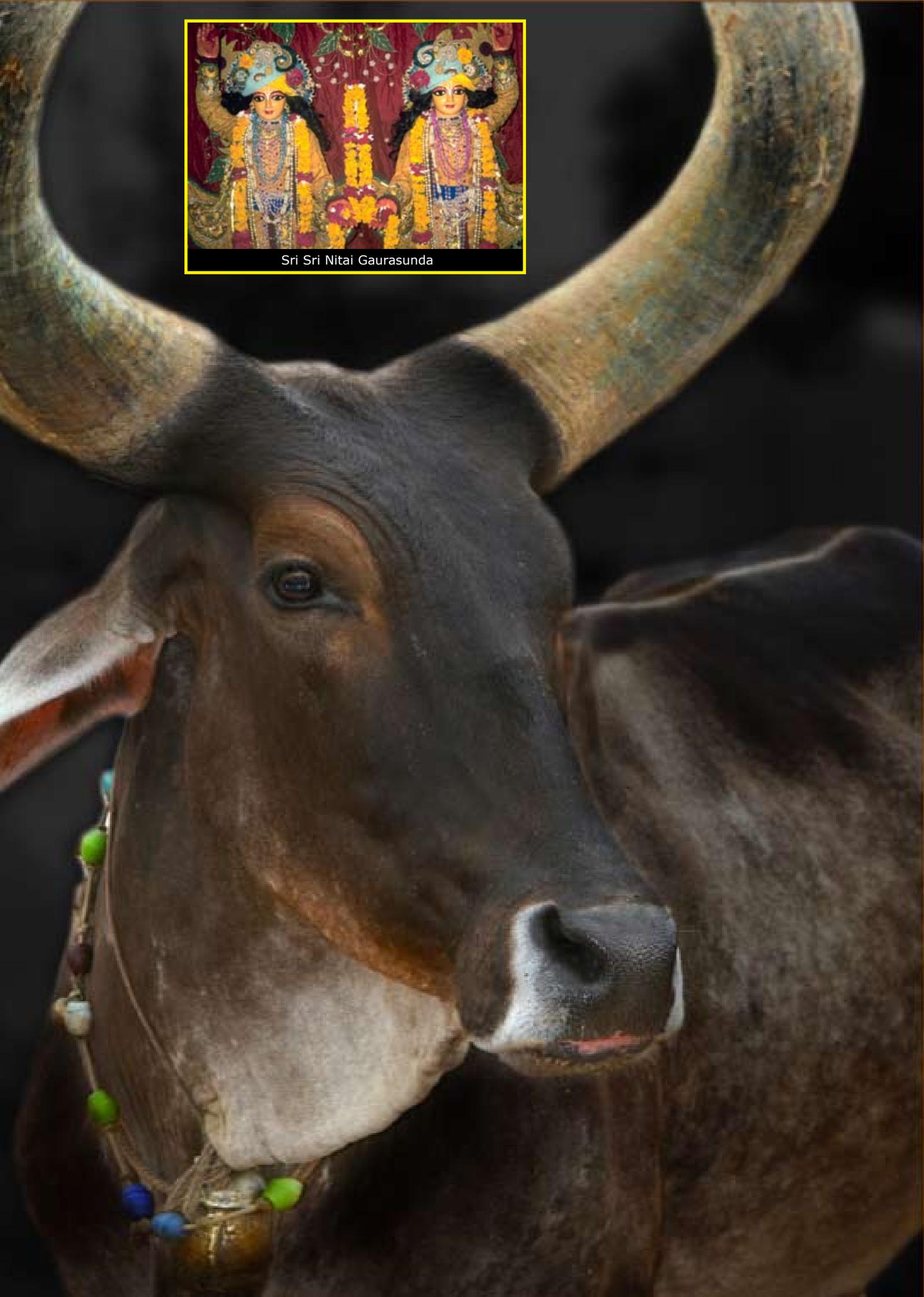
It is the desire of His Holiness Lokanāth Swami, Śrīman Istadeva Dāsa, and Śrīman Sanaka-Sanatana Dāsa that the honor of caring for and maintaining the Noble Kṛṣṇa be awarded to Śrīman Rādhāpati Dāsa and Śrīman Kūrma Rūpa Dāsa who have vowed to at all costs see to his every need. They are highly honored to be awarded this privilege and will make all residential and financial arrangements for his continued maintenance, even in the event they expire before the Noble Kṛṣṇa does.

The Noble Kṛṣṇa will reside wherever they see fit.

H. H. Lokanath Swami
H.H. Lokanāth Swami

Rādhāpati Dāsa
Rādhāpati Dāsa

Kūrma Rūpa Dāsa
Kūrma Rūpa Dāsa

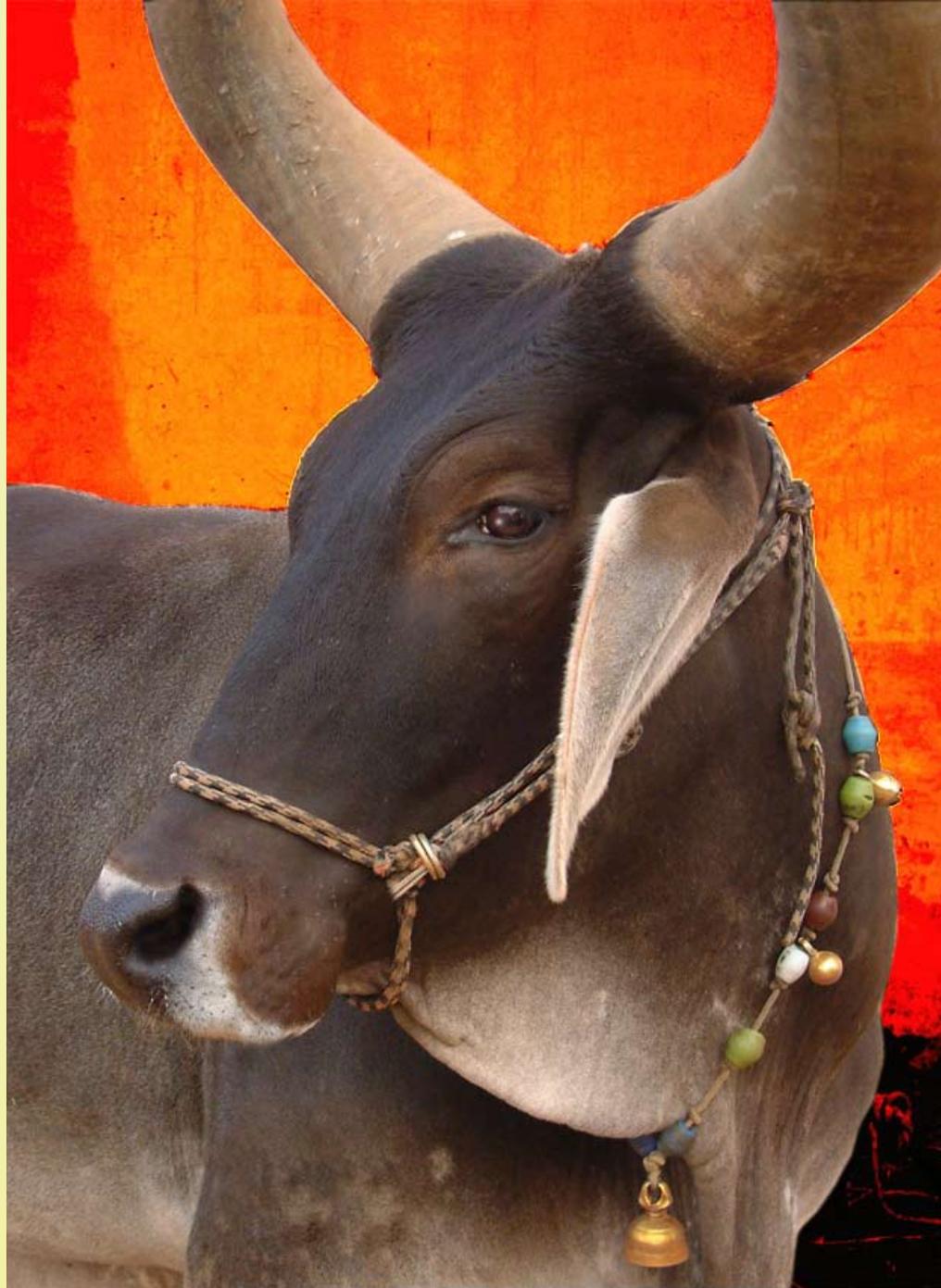


Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasunda

opposite direction. Upon seeing the majestic form of Krsna, he parked the tractor, got off and after prostrating himself before him, took the dust from his hoof with his right hand and placed it on his head.

After some time Krsna bonded with a cow named Vanamali who seemed to be the cause of him becoming peaceful and cooperative. We then let him wander freely and removed his nose harness. He was respected by all the other members of the herd and he never bullied the smaller members.

Often, upon seeing a bullock cart passing by the *goshalla*, Krsna would go to the gate and roar seeming to remember his ten-years of wandering on Padayatra. For several years he was the only Kankrej bull in Vrindavan and was thus quite well known. Everyday people passing by our facility would stop to admire him and feed him *capatis*. He



became a landmark and our facility became known among the locals as the *bara singh-walla-bael goshalla*—the great-horned bull *goshalla*.

When winter approached Krsna started to walk more slowly and reduce his food intake. He started to withdraw and his interest in the routine of

the *goshalla* waned. Soon he began to stand with his head tilted to his right side and his right eye started to close. Dr. Lavania examined him carefully and over a few days announced that Krsna showed symptoms of horn cancer. Over the next weeks his diagnosis was confirmed and we moved him into a sand-filled



shed where he could rest comfortably. Gradually he lost interest in eating but still liked to go out and sit in the sun during the day.

As winter came to a close, he could not stand up and lay for five days until Makara Sankranti, when the sun changes course and the days start to become longer. Three men were sitting with Krsna who lay peacefully breathing slowly: Sanak Sanatana dasa who had purchased him eighteen years prior; Jayadeva dasa, a devotee who had served on Padayatra for

several years and Kurma Rupa dasa who along with Radhapati dasa had accepted the responsibility to maintain him during his retirement.

Kurma Rupa had decided to stay by Krsna's side during the night and left to get warmer clothes and a thermos of ginger tea. Minutes after he left, Sanak Sanatana and Jayadeva watched Krsna lift his head high, open his mouth, exit his body and gently lay his head again on his pillow. The soul of that great noble bull departed and

those witnessing were reminded of the passing of Bhisma deva, the grandsire of the Pandavas.

The next morning several devotees arrived to pay their respects and all assisted as we moved Krsna to the grave we had dug between two trees. A lady narrated that while on Padayatra two village men followed her with ill intent. As she was hurrying away from them she passed by the place Krsna was tied. Sensing she was in danger Krsna rose to shake his horns frightening the men away.





Other visitors said they could still sense Krsna's presence in the compound and felt a protective energy all around.

After being placed in the grave about twenty-five devotees offered Ganges water, flowers and incense and began to circumambulate him in *kirtan*. With moist eyes we all filled our hands with Vrindavan dust and began to shower it all over his body.

As the news of his departure spread, letters



came from all over the world offering condolences. The family who had been sponsoring his maintenance offered to build Krsna a samadhi memorial which is in progress. (See below)



Krsna is an inspiring example of one who served selflessly to spread the Holy Name to every town and village. His passing in Vrindavan at an auspicious moment, in the company of well-wishers and without excessive suffering attests to his greatness. May he remember us favorably as we continue to struggle in this material world.





The calf's hooves still encased in the placenta



The calf's nose emerges...



then the head...

Radhe! Radhe!

CFC Welcomes Another Calf!

Sudevi sent a cow from Radha Kund who was suffering from a prolapsed vagina. She mentioned to us that the cow was pregnant and was due in about ten days. The cow was nervous and disoriented upon arrival being in a new environment.

Two days passed and the cowherd men all agreed that it was unlikely that she was so close to giving birth. One or two even doubted she was pregnant. In any case the cow was treated for her prolapse and began to settle in.

On her sixth day of being with us she sat down and delivered a perfectly healthy female calf. Our medical staff gathered to assist her and as the calf's head appeared they called out **Radhe-Radhe!** These being the first words she heard, that is the name she has been given.

It took her less than an hour to stand up and when she started to nurse no milk came out. Her mother turned her head and began to nurse from her own udder to get the milk flowing and then encouraged Radhe-

Radhe to try again. The mother is very protective of Radhe-Radhe and follows behind her while she learns how to run and jump. She has been named Go Mata in recognition of her exemplary maternal qualities.



Go Mata



The calf starts to breathe...



and with each lick comes more to life and then stands and nurses.



A Day in the Village

Photos and text by Campakalata Devi Dasi



On a crisp, cool Kartik morning in Vrndavan, sixteen bleary-eyed Gopi hopefuls straggled in by ones and twos to our predetermined meeting spot. The group had come from as far as the USA, France and the UK to experience the charm of Vrndavan, but now they sat around sluggishly. After a late night of bhajans, seven in the morning felt awfully early. "Ok, let's go!" I shouted, trying to sound lively. "Life in the village starts bright and early! Gotta milk those cows!"

We hopped on any rickshaw available in front

of the Krsna-Balarama mandir and headed out to Chir Ghat where our host, Pavan from the Belvan Care for Cows Goshalla, would be waiting. The call to action seemed to rouse our group of sleepy Gopis. Many pulled out cameras and started snapping away. Some encouraged their rickshaw wallas to race.

Chuckling with good humor, the drivers pushed their bony, sinewy legs hard into the pedals and we reached Chir Ghat quickly, so quickly that we ended up passing a yelling and beckoning Pavan right by!

The Yamuna lay still,

blanketed by a thick layer of fog. The top of the Kesi Ghat Madan Mohan look alike temple jutted through the dense haze. Contrasting sharply with the Yamuna's calm and quiet, a large bull bulging with muscle flaunted his might as he plowed his horns deep into Yamuna's sand tossing it carelessly all over his body. The setting was a perfect introduction





into our coming venture. Before us were two pivotal aspects of Vrndavan village life: the cow and the Yamuna River.

Under the rising sun, we made our way across the Yamuna and through countless agricultural fields to Belvan. Here was Vrndavana as it once was - sprawling fields, dusty paths, ancient, gnarled trees, an occasional flower bush, flocks of parrots swooping and squawking through the air, peacock calls heralding the start of the day, Brijbasis, heads burdened with the day's vegetable pick, proceeding to the market, oxen dutifully pulling their wooden carts under a cloudless blue sky. Our Gopi group soon lost

themselves in the idyllic setting. "No trash!" one marveled. "No horns honking!" said another.

Soon we found ourselves in Belvan village. Some of our group sped hurriedly from one endearing sight to another, while others lagged behind to pat each calf, chat with each Brijbasi child and admire every thatched hut, neatly stacked cow dung patty tower and gnarled old tree. Pavan and I found it difficult to keep the group together and moving at a steady pace. "The cows

are waiting to be milked!" I called encouragingly. But Gopi chores didn't seem to be high on the priority list.

Our visit brought children and youth of the village scurrying to their doorsteps. "Radhe Radhe!" they exclaimed excitedly.

Girls with water pots piled high passed by smiling and whispering to each other while ox carts maneuvered through the narrow dusty walkways. Young buffaloes sprawled out in the sun all four legs extended. Cows lazily chewed their cud.





LEFT: Nakula and Arjuna approach a Gopi. MIDDLE: A Gopi admires Sundar. ABOVE RIGHT: Lala Gopal accepts some service from Sarasvati devi dasi.

It took some encouraging to get the whole group through the village and into the Care for Cows goshalla. Here the excitement increased as the curious cows gathered round to greet us.

Pavan patiently showed the girls how to milk. Our Gopi wannabes smiled with satisfaction as they each in turn managed to squeeze some milk into the bucket. Here especially, amongst peaceful, well-cared-for cows, the charm of village life made its

mark. The girls watched with gratification as the calves were let loose with their mothers to nurse. Suddenly, they were ravenously hungry too! No problem. Pavan set to work boiling and cooling a whole bucket of fresh milk. As the girls eagerly drank one

glass after another, their discussion centered around how wholesomely delicious this milk was compared to the factory produced milk of their native countries.

After milk, Pavan took us to Belvan's trademark Laksmi temple where Laksmi Devi is still





performing austerities to join Krsna's *Rasa-Lila*. Our would-be Gopis appreciated the theme of the Pavan's talk. To join Krsna's Braja Lila, one's heart must be



simple like that of a village girl. Although living in opulent palaces in Goloka Vrndavan, the Gopis are happiest in a simple forest setting surrounded by cows and nature. Their only

anxiety is Krsna's pleasure.

Our day in the village culminated with a visit to a Brijbasi household. The family greeted us warmly with smiles, head-tilting side-to-side nods and "Radhe Radhe"s.

The eldest daughter industriously set herself to making *rotis* over a cow dung stove. A few of us sneaked a peak over the wall into the smoke-filled, dark corner used as a kitchen. "Go on," I prodded

the girls. "Try making some." A couple backed away while one more daring girl stepped forward uncertainly. Probably most of our group had experienced rolling dough out with a rolling pin, but flattening a large ball of very sticky dough between the fingers and palms so that it's perfectly circular and of even thinness (or thickness) all around is quite a challenge! After watching a few flopped



attempts by my fellow Gopi friends, I decided to try my hand at it. I thought I had done pretty well, until I noticed that our host had added it to the reject pile. Oh well, maybe next time.

Brijbasi *rotis* have a certain smoky, rustic flavor that simply cannot be duplicated over a modern gas or electric stove. And when you add the hearty, good natured love of the Brijbasi making them, the experience is most certainly one of a kind.

The boys of the family along with Pavan set to serving our famished Gopis varieties of *subji*, *rotis* and homemade pickles. We each got our very own pile of sugar to dip the *rotis* in as well as a jalapeno pepper stuffed with a spicy homemade mustard paste.

After lunch, Jahnvi from the UK led all of us in a *bhajan* for our hosts' Deities. The grandma of the family suddenly bounced into a folksy Brijbasi-style dance despite her obvious advanced age. Our hosts' daughters and their friends danced each presenting her own unique style. Jahnvi's magical Maha Mantra melody filled the room moving everyone to sway or dance.

Several of our girls soon joined the dancing. One couldn't help but be drawn in to the magnetic power of the Name. Everyone clapped, bouncing and smiling as Jahnvi called out sweetly, "Radhe Radhe, Govinda Radhe!" mixed with calls of "Radhe!" and "Radhe Shyama!"

And thus the day came

to a close. Our Gopis gave gifts to the girls of the Brijbasi family and heartily thanked Care for Cows' Pavan for hosting and guiding us through our day in the village.

Soon our group reached the Yamuna River which now sparkled merrily. We pushed off the shore each quietly absorbed in her own thoughts. Abruptly, Kunti from the US blurted out, "We definitely need to do this again." This prompted concurrence from all. The quiet boat suddenly buzzed with excited Gopi chatter.

Someday this will be our life, I thought - the cows, the Yamuna River, the forests of Braja, singing, dancing and feasting. Someday life will be so simple and care-free... with Krsna in Goloka Vrndavan.







Pappu and Kanhaiya

Oxcart Eng

Kanhaiya is a Gir ox who is from Sundrakh village just one kilometer from our clinic. His owner Pappu is a poor man with no farm land and is entirely dependent on him to make a living. He uses Kanhaiya to haul bricks, cement, sand and other building materials to various construction sites in Raman Reti.

We have been watching Kanhaiya's health dwindle

as he passes our clinic each morning on the way to work. His gait is wobbly, his ribs are showing, his hair is falling out and his morale is broken.

We asked Pappu why he keeps working him even though he is so weak and he replied that he cannot afford to take a day off as he lives from hand to mouth. He has no savings and requires his daily

earnings to keep his family fed.

Understanding that Kanhaiya's dwindling health is one result of Pappu's poverty and knowing him not to be a cruel person we made a plan to take in Kanhaiya and restore his health.

We offered Pappu the use of our Madhu who is strong and healthy and looking for an opportunity



Pappu and Madhu

ine Overhaul

to let off steam. We made an arrangement that Pappu work Madhu each day but return him to us each evening so we can make sure he stays well fed and healthy.

Pappu and Kanhaiya are very happy with this arrangement and in exchange Pappu will deliver any construction materials to Care for Cows free of charge.



Kanhaiya



Suradasi

Suradasi's Fourth Calf



Suradasi's fourth calf was born upside-down but is healthy and happy

Our beloved and gentle blind cow Suradasi has given birth to her fourth calf since being with us. We allow her to breed as she is one of the only milkers we have.

She sat down to deliver while our medical staff was on duty and they happily came to her assistance. Generally the calf comes out of the birth passage with their front hooves first as if diving into the

material world.

When this calf's hooves came out they were inverted and this led us to assume they were the hind legs and that the calf was being born in reverse. Dr. Lavania was consulted by phone to guide us in the delivery but Surdasi's next contraction revealed the nose of the calf and then we understood he was diving into the material world upside down!

Since Suradasi is known to have quite an appetite, her new bull calf appeared enormous and healthy. He is already bigger than several of our orphaned calves who are three months old.

He is extremely energetic and since he is mad about his mother's creamy milk he has been awarded the name Makhanchor, which means "Butter Thief".

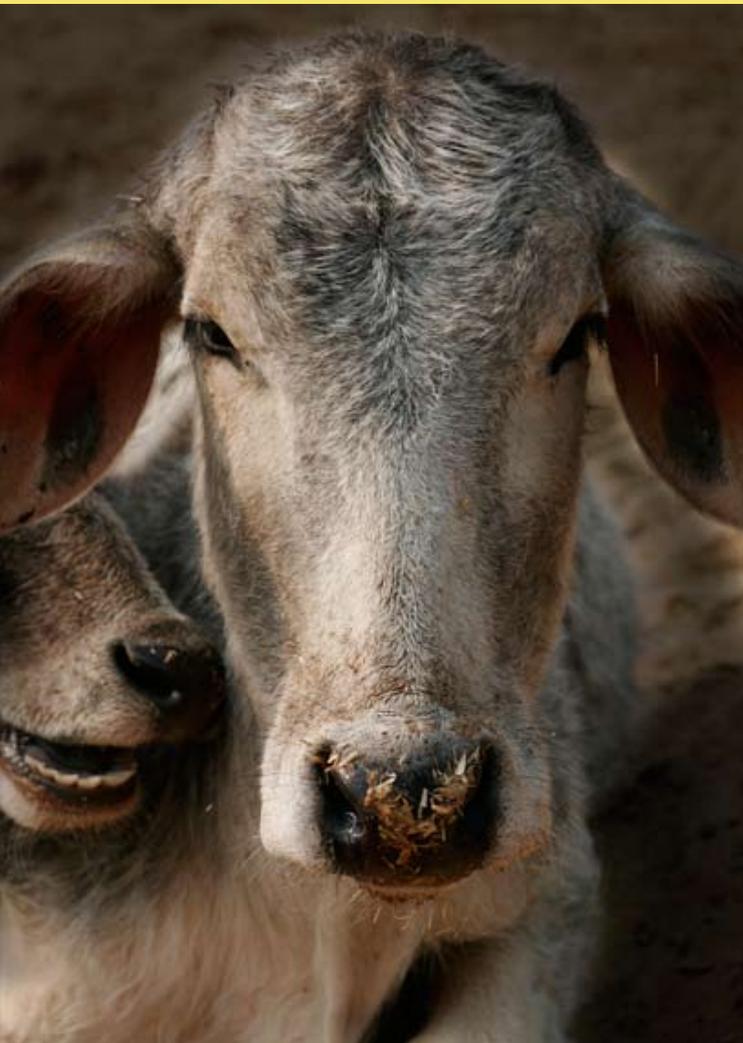


Makhanchor





Santosh



Sadhu

Sadhu is a seven-month-old bull from Raman Reti. We saw him wandering in the vicinity of the Krsna-Balarama tree and tried to coax him towards our facility but he ran off. His tail and back legs were covered with dried diarrhea to the degree they looked like tree bark. One local man told us he knew the route the young bull frequented and volunteered to catch him and deliver him to our facility. He arrived the next day and has bonded with Bihari and Sundar Krsna, two other orphaned bulls who have been with us for over a month.

MISSIONS ~

A village woman brought **Santosh** to our gate saying that his mother had dried up and that she cannot keep him any more. She ran off and left him standing there. Generally when this happens the calf immediately follows his owner back home. Somehow Santosh sensed that he would be happier here and stood quietly while she walked away.

He stood at the gate and when a cowherd man entered he ran in and made himself at home. He has teamed up with Bihari, Sundar Krsna, and Sadhu and has settled in with no fuss whatsoever.



Tulasi was also sent to us by Sudevi from Radha Kund. She has been suffering for a prolapse vagina and arrived with stitches in her vulva. Infection had set in and Dr. Lavania removed the stitches and the cow has been receiving treatment to cure the infection. So far the prolapse has not reoccurred.



Tulasi



Bhagirathi



ABOVE: A crane assists our medical team by catching flies that land around Bhagirathi's pressure sores.



Bhagirathi is from Radha Kund. A bull mounted her and she fell and broke her spine and laid for many days before she was brought here. She has severe pressure sores on both sides and her hind quarter is paralyzed. Dr. Lavania recommended massage along her spine and while she is still unable to move her back legs and tail, she is able to twitch muscles around her hips which indicate increased sensitivity.

She is laying on two feet of sand covered by rice straw while her pressure sores are being treated. She shows a boost in morale but she will never be able to stand up or walk again.

MISSIONS ~



Syama Priya



Syama Priya was found in a newly dug drainage ditch near our compound at four in the morning. Some local people took her out and she lay on the side of the road until our cowherd men stood her up and walked her into our facility. She was suffering from strained muscles and shock.

After examining her carefully, Dr. Lavania diagnosed her as suffering from Ketosis, a disease that causes blindness, partial paralysis, and prevents the body from producing glucose. Other symptoms are constant grinding of molars and walking in tight circles. She has been with us for twenty days and has not been able to eat or drink unassisted. When she is thirsty, she places her muzzle in the bucket but due to partial paralysis in her throat she is unable to suck in the water.

She has been given nutrients in a intravenous drip and is daily fed two liters of a mixture of cooked grains and gur. Water is poured in her mouth carefully avoiding it to go into her wind pipe and she is doing so well we cannot detect weight loss. It is indeed remarkable.

~ NEW ADMISSIONS ~



Vinodilal arriving by bullock cart



Vinodilal is a one-and-a-half year-old bull who was brought in from a village on a bullock cart. He has suffered several injuries, the worst being a fractured tibia. The part of the bone that was protruding was removed by Dr. Lavania and the wound is being cleaned and dressed daily. Two of his other legs are also injured and when placed in a sling and hoisted up, he makes no attempt to use them. He is eating well but it is not yet known if he will be able to walk again.



Vinodilal recuperating

Laksmi arrived from Radha Kund with a severely broken tibia. She was an unruly patient and it took great patience to treat her. The tibia had been fractured some weeks before and infection had set in. She died ten days after her arrival despite the treatment she was given.



Laksmi just before her departure

Life in the Streets

At midnight on the Mathura-Govardhana highway a cow was hit by a speeding truck and dragged for several meters. She was mangled.



Tirtha Vikas Trust was alerted as they have a cow ambulance. They woke up the driver who picked up the cow and took her to Sudevi in Radha Kund for evaluation.



The cow had three broken legs, a broken jaw and several serious lacerations.



In the morning they brought her to Care for Cows for Dr. Lavania to treat her.

He labored for three

hours straight with

four assistants. Her broken jaw prevented her from chewing.

After three days of intravenous feeding her suffering ended.



A close-up photograph of a cow's face, focusing on its eyes and nose. The cow has light brown and white fur. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**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 is Gaura Purnima
March 21, 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 whole-hearted thanks to all who assisted during January 2008

Alessandra Petراسi, Italy	Jai Simman, Singapore	Pranavallabha dasa, USA
Ananda Dasa, Guatemala	Jayesh Patel, UK	Radha Jivan dasa, India
Anonymous, Singapore	Kathleen Fink, USA	Radha Mohan Sevak, India
Avinal Joshi, Malaysia	Kenneth Solomon, USA	Radhapati dasa, India
Bonnie Hamdi, USA	Kurt Mausert, India	Simona Polše Zupan, Slovenia
David Kasanow, USA	Labangalatika dasi, India	Siva Rajan, Singapore
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Devala dasa, Canada	Laksmi Rupa dasi, India	Subramaniam Thambyrajah, Malaysia
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Dominik Bletz, Europe	Martin Svacina, Switzerland	Uresh Chetty, South Africa
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Hemanth Ramanna, USA	Padmasambhava, NZ	Vyasapada dasa, Canada
Isani dasi Holland	Pradipta Chatterjee, 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