



CARE FOR COWS
IN VRINDAVAN



www.careforcows.org

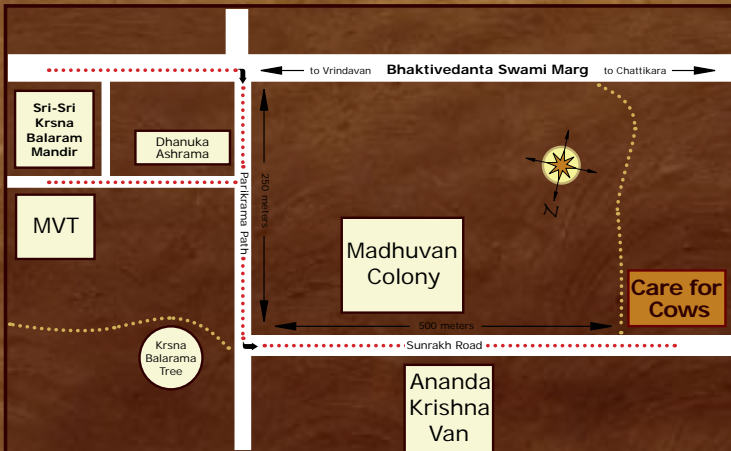
Jai Gopāla

One should gently scratch the body of a cow, offer her a mouthful of green grass, and reverentially circumambulate her. If cows are maintained nicely and comfortably, Lord Gopāla will be pleased.

Gautamīya-tantra

If one delivers a cow from a dangerous situation, from being stuck in mud or from being attacked by a tiger, one attains the result of performing a horse sacrifice. If one treats a sick cow with medicine, one can become cured of his own sickness. By protecting the cow from fear, one also become fearless. One should treat the cow with great respect.

Viṣṇu-dharmottara-purāṇa Part 3, Chapter 291





Care for Cows in Vrindavan maintains abandoned cows, bulls, retired oxen, and orphaned calves. We are volunteers who offer our

talents and resources to tend to the neglected cows living in Krishna's holy land. We provide medical attention, nutritious food,

clean water, and lifetime accommodation. At present we host a herd of over 120, but many more innocent cows urgently need shelter.

There are approximately three to four hundred abandoned cows in Vrindavan requiring accommodation. Unless they are protected they are destined to subsist on refuse and become plagued by various debilitating and often terminal diseases, or suffer injury from careless motorists. The most immediate danger for Vrindavan's abandoned cows is that they are abducted by cattle rustlers who transport them in inhumane ways to the growing number of slaughterhouses in India. Our present facility is full and there is an urgent need to acquire more land for their protection.



A former milk cow now abandoned, starving in the street (above). Middle, this bull was side-swiped by a passing vehicle. At right, a butcher sorts through a horrifying mangle of bodies delivered in a leather truck.





A group of men pass their time at a local Vrindavan tea stall, indifferent to the suffering and demise of this abandoned calf.





When a new admission arrives at the Care for Cows clinic they are first checked over for any injuries, open wounds, signs of disease, and parasites. If they are clear of major injuries they are then given an antiseptic bath and thorough grooming. Any minor wounds are cleaned and dressed, and the new resident is then served a nutritious meal. Most of the bulls, cows and calves admitted to the facility have been abused and neglected, but they quickly respond to love and care and settle in within a few days.



A new arrival from Govardhan, a neglected six month old calf later named Radhe Shyama (far left). Attending to a face abscess found in the initial check up (above). Middle, after a long overdue shampoo the new resident is pampered with a brushing session. At left, fresh food and a clean place to sleep.



An increasing number of cases are admitted to Care for Cows having sustained injuries from car accidents on the streets of Vrindavan. Consequently they require immediate medical attention from qualified veterinarians, provided either onsite at the Care for Cows clinic or a short drive away at the Mathura University Veterinary Hospital. Recuperating patients are then attended to around the clock by a dedicated team of carers. Once fully recovered the new residents are given a home at Care for Cows for the rest of their lives.



Surgery being performed under anaesthetic by Dr RP Pandey and Dr Karen at the Mathura Veterinary Hospital (above).

A street bull struck down by heat stroke is brought in and administered IV drips at the CFC clinic (middle).

At right, Dr Lavania plasters a fractured leg.





A cow sling supports Gulabi and helps her to stand during recovery from a car accident. If downed cows are not stood up regularly they can succumb to lung infections and other serious complications.



*Pushpa**

At the age of 8 months Pushpa was hit by a car in Gokula and left for dead. Ten days later she was picked up off the side of the road and brought into Care for Cows, almost lifeless. She had sustained a multiple fracture on her rear leg, lost 2 inches of bone, had open maggot infested wounds on her side and was severely dehydrated. With proper medical attention, ongoing months of treatment, nutritious food, and great determination on her part, Pushpa surprised everyone with a full recovery.



Left, Pushpa helped to her feet after the plaster cast is set. Above, Pushpa in a very serious condition upon arrival. Middle, with no energy to eat on her own Pushpa is supported and hand fed until she recovers her strength. Right, one year later Pushpa is growing up, healthy and happy at CFC.





Brajja



Braja was abandoned and hit by a vehicle in Vrindavan which left him with a broken leg. In order to survive he had to use the leg to walk around and beg for food scraps. In time it became set at an abnormal 90 degree angle, which made his shoulder drop and his back twist out of shape. Undergoing great difficulty he at last caught the eye of a kind-hearted person who brought him into Care for Cows. The doctors were able to straighten Braja's leg over a period of 6 months. Though he will never be able to bear full weight on the limb he is no longer in pain, and he can use it much better than before.

Far left, Braja on arrival with his fractured leg. Above, Dr Lavania uses local anaesthetic before commencing to straighten the leg. Middle, setting a bamboo splint. At left, Braja in peak condition and his treatment complete.



Abandoned to wander the Vrindavan streets at an early age Karna got into strife when his ear was injured and the wound became fly struck, or full of maggots. Their squirming drove him mad as they ate away at his rotting ear and he constantly rubbed his head against a brick wall to try and get relief. Oozing pus and blood accompanied by an unbearable stench, the distressed calf was bundled up by a kind soul and brought into Care for Cows for treatment and a new home. Doctors were unable to save his ear but the wound healed fast with no complications. Karna's gentle nature has made him a favorite at Care for Cows.



Karna's rotten ear hangs on by a thread of skin (above). Middle, removing maggots by the hundreds, and dead tissue from the wound. At left, on the way to recovery. At right, Karna six months later at CFC.



Karna



Due to deforestation in the Vraja area cows can no longer subsist on natural growth and consequently have become dependent on commercial production of grass and hay. Since many of the local residents cannot afford commercial fodder for their non-productive cows, they sadly abandon them to wander in the streets foraging through garbage heaps. There the cows consume a variety of inedible and filthy things, primarily plastic bags, and gradually become malnourished and diseased. As they have no shelter,

they rest in the street and are hit or run over by cars and left in the streets to die. Of course, this is not how it should be in Krishna's holy land. Care for Cows started with minimum resources in its attempt to address this problem. Over the years we have attended to hundreds of cows in Vrindavan and our present problem is keeping up with the number of cows requiring attention. Because of our limited facility, daily we have to turn villagers away who would rather give us their cows than abandon them. We need your help.



Left and below are photos of Yasoda, before and after her rescue, treatment and nurturing at Care for Cows.



Yasoda

How You Can Help

Land Fund \$57,000 / Rs.25 lakhs per acre*

Contribute toward buying land in Vrindavan to host abandoned cows

Build a New Cowshed \$1,400 / Rs.60,000

Sponsor a Cow \$25 / Rs.1,100 per month

Maintain the resident of your choice by becoming a Sponsor or Contributor †

Medical Expenses \$115+ / Rs.5,000+ per month

Or donate for expanding our clinical and hospital facilities

Feed the Herd for a Day \$30 / Rs.1,200

Feed the Herd a Feast \$50 / Rs.2,100

Feed the herd on your special day - birthday, anniversary, etc. The herd's regular diet is supplemented with wheat porridge, jaggary, chick pea husks and fruit

Bull Training \$30 / Rs.1,200

Sponsor the training of the bull of your choice

Build an Oxcart \$230 / Rs.10,000

General Donation

Donate as much as you like for Go-Seva

For further details please contact Kurma Rupa dasa

tel (0565) 254 0135 • kurmarupa@careforcows.org • www.careforcows.org

* Land price in November 2006 † 'Sponsors' are those who commit to maintain their chosen resident for one year (\$300 / Rs.13,200 can be paid in one or three installments). 'Contributors' donate the amount of their choice for as long as they like to the Life-long Maintenance Fund of their chosen resident.

The whole herd gets special treats at a Care for Cows festival.



