Tribute to Gauri

A Surprising Union

More Calves
Dear Friends,

“The Surabhi cow descended from the spiritual world and manifested herself in the heavenly spheres from the aroma of celestial nectar for the benefit of all created beings. The direct descendants of the Surabhi cows are the sacred cows from the continent India which are uniquely similar to the Surabhi cows owing to the beautiful hump on their backs and the wonderfully soft folds of skin under their necks. Since all cows in the world today are factual descendants of the sacred cows of India, they are all holy as well and should always be lovingly cared for and protected with the highest esteem and greatest respect.

One should never cause harm to cows in any way even in dreams and one should never even think of eating the flesh of cows as there is no action more sinful in all of creation than cow killing.”

Excerpt from Anusasana Parva, Mahabharata

The CFC Staff

Care for Cows in Vrindavan is a Charitable Trust registered in India, USA, Holland and Switzerland.
~ PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH ~

~ ANANDA’S CALF ~
Gauri came to us in 2001 and is one of the first members of Care for Cows. Her testimonial appeared in our first booklet as follows:

“My story is bleak but has a happy ending. My former owner was so greedy that two years in a row he stole so much of my milk that my calves starved to death. I was so distressed that I dried up. Can you blame me? And then he pushed me out of the gate and ranted that I was a rascal for not giving milk! He would not let me come back “home”, nor would he feed me.

Forlorn, I wandered in the neighborhood and came upon a home of very pious people. They brushed and fed me and even paid a man to take me to Care for Cows.

Upon arriving here, my distress diminished as there were three calves residing there not much different from the ones I lost. One of them was an orphan and he adopted me and started nursing. I was so moved that I started giving milk again. We were made for each other.

The cowherd men here call me Gauri and have promised that I can nurse my next calf to my full satisfaction. If it weren’t for Care for Cows, I’d be in a fix.”
We estimated that Gauri was about eight-years-old when she was admitted. In 2002 she gave birth to a female calf who was named Jhanavi and they were allowed to stay together almost all of the time. Gauri was a good milker and we decided to let her mate again in 2004.

Gauri then gave birth to twins in 2005 -- one male and one female. Before the delivery of the twins she developed a prolapse which continued to trouble her the rest of her life.

Gauri was often admired by Krsna the famous Padayatra ox.
One morning our cowherd men discovered that Gauri had given birth to twins. The male was red and the female white so they were named after the red and white Madhava-Malati blooming creeper which grows in Vrindavan.
As a result we decided not to let her breed anymore but somehow on her daily excursions to the fields she got impregnated by a wandering bull. Nine months into the pregnancy she started to suffer from prolapse again and was visibly troubled. The cowherd men would correct her condition but within an hour a portion of her birth canal would again protrude.

We called Dr. Rakesh Sharma of the Go Seva Samiti which is a non-profit organization based in Delhi and Vrindavan. They have three full-time veterinarians and four compounders who serve several goshallas in the Braja area free of charge. Dr. Sharma and his assistant Devendra Gaur visited us one afternoon and corrected Gauri’s prolapse. They estimated that she would give birth in about fifteen days.

That same night at 3:00 a.m. Gauri’s prolapse again occurred and this time more serious. She lay flat and tried to deliver the calf but without success.

We again appealed to Dr. Sharma who arrived shortly thereafter. After examining Gauri he warned us that because of Gauri’s age and the prolapse complication there was a risk that she or the calf, or both may die.
The Vet and assistant labored for more than an hour in very trying circumstances until they successfully managed to deliver the calf. Their dedication and performance was admirable.

When they placed the calf before Gauri she was completely still though steam was rising from her body owing to the cold morning. Gauri began licking her and it was as though each stroke of her tongue brought the calf more and more to life.

When the sun rose Gauri got up and followed her calf as she was carried into the barn yard. Several curious cows came to examine the calf and welcome her into the herd. They seem to celebrate when a new calf is born.

Then Dr. Sharma and Devendra laid Gauri down and carefully cleaned her uterous before beginning the process of inserting it again. This they completed without complication.

Gauri rested for awhile and
then got up and dutifully nursed her new-born calf who became animated and energetic.

Gauri rested the rest of the day and seemed comfortable all night but in the morning it became apparent that she lacked the strength to recuperate from the intense labor and energy loss from the birth complications. Unfortunately she quietly passed away.
Gauri’s beautiful calf has been given the same name so we can remember her gentle mother as we serve her.

Dr. Rakesh Sharma and Devender Gaur of the Go Seva Samiti. Care for Cows is most grateful for their selfless service.
A SURPRISING UNION

Sitali & Caitanya
Sitali was rescued by Yudhisthira Gaur on the Delhi-Agra Highway after she had been hit by a car which left her front left leg mangled. Offering her treatment was troublesome as she was traumatized by the accident and it took her several weeks before she healed and became friendly.

Caitanya was abandoned on the Chatikara-Vrindavan highway after his left rear leg was amputated below the knee. He was spotted
by Sudevi who was visiting from Radha Kund and reported to us. He is good-natured and docile and able to walk as the stump is long enough for him to use.

As the odd couple recuperated in the same pen they were a constant source of consolation to each other. They bonded and when Sitali became healthy and came into season we didn’t take precaution as we never imagined that Caitanya could succeed in impregnating her. But he proved the old adage, “Where there is a will, there is a way.”
Puri Maharaja and Santosh pull the calf’s legs as Sitali pushes the calf out.

Puri Maharaja (left) has successfully delivered sixteen calves in the last six months. Above he is tying the female calf’s umbilical cord to prevent flies from laying eggs there. He and Santosh chuckle as Sitali’s new calf tries to suckle from Santosh and Lalita’s calf tries to suckle Puri Maharaja’s ear. Calves often regard their attendants as surrogate mothers.
Above: The new calf is assisted to stand and is offered to her mother so she can finish cleaning her up.

Sitali is sponsored by Rasa Mandala Dasi who has also kindly volunteered to sponsor the new calf who she named Bhavisyati.

The birth was without complication.
More Calves Born

Shyamli is the petite daughter of Indulekha and gave birth to her first calf without complication. Both mother and daughter are small but energetic and healthy.
Ananda is the daughter of Kaliya who suffered greatly upon delivering her. Ananda has been sponsored since birth by Ananda Dasa from Guatemala. The calf is healthy and happy and will also be sponsored by Ananda Dasa.
Lajjasila has been sponsored by Sarasvati Stein for the past two years. Above is her first calf who was born without complication when she was out in the field. She requires a sponsor.
This young bull calf was brought to us by a local man who found him on the side of the Vrindavan-Chatikara highway. He is unable to get up by himself owing to amemia. When we stand him up he is able to walk around for two hours or more. We are feeding him well with the hope he gets stronger. He requires a sponsor.
This calf was abandoned near our facility and came to the gate during feeding time and bellowed loudly until we admitted her. She is also anemic but has a good appetite and a strong desire to survive. She also requires a sponsor.
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The cows send their heart-felt thanks to those who assisted during February 2010.

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