The Recuperation Garden
Muslim Go Sevaks
Tribute to Radhapatī
Miniature Galloways
“The sole aim of the mother is the good of the child. Every moment of her life she thinks how the child will be happy, healthy and good. It seems as though her existence is only for that purpose.

“The existence of the cow also seems to be merely for the good of the human race. There are so many ways in which milk and its various preparations benefit the human race. From the youngest child to the weakest invalid to the most robust man, everyone can derive the best sustenance from the various preparations of milk.

“The cow will eat the most inexpensive things -- grass and straw-- and produce the most valuable food. What a wonderful mechanism! How great and good is the power of Him who can create such a mechanism!

“Is it not base ingratitude to kill such an animal for the satisfaction of the palate? Is it not the foulest revolt against the dispensation of Providence?”

--Basanta Kumar Chatterjee

Excerpt from Kalyana-Kalpataru
The Cow number
January 1945
Gita Press, Gorakhpur
Recently a friend complimented us regarding the progress some of our injured residents have made and asked that we share our methods. Above you will see Gopal, Nandu and Madan Mohan who have been on a special recuperation program for months. They have been joined by Jaladutta and Prajna pictured above as well as by Haribol who just arrived.
Our recuperation program is simple: 1. Heal their wounds and rid them of all parasites; 2. provide them all the nourishing food they can eat; 3. protect them from being bullied by the healthy members of the herd; 4. give them encouragement by calling them by name, talking to them and by grooming them.

Experienced cowherds have learned that the
more personal one is with cows, the more milk they give. We are convinced that being personal is an important element in their healing and recuperation as well.

The following photographs of their whole bodies chronicle their physical progress and growth over several months while the portraits of their faces indicate how their psychological attitude has transformed from negative to positive.

Gopal

Gopal’s pelvis was broken by a reckless driver... the vet said he would never walk again. Above left shows the injury above his left hip. His facial expression (above right) shows dejection, listlessness, hopelessness and sadness. Today (left & right) he is alert, positive and confident. He is the natural leader of the recuperation group and rules, not by weight and strength, but by humility and intelligence.
Nandu was struck by a car in the winter and left on the side of the road. He was so weak and emaciated that he could not get up by himself. He was close to giving up the will to live. His posture (right) shows exhaustion, insecurity and weakness. His facial expression (left) shows fear, apprehension and depression. After nine months of care (below left & right) he is strong, confident, independent and determined. He stands firm and allows no one to push him around.
Above: Nandu on 12/20/2012 || Below: Nandu on 9/6/2013
Madan Mohan was attacked by hungry wild dogs and suffered bites on his throat and ears where he could not lick. In short order, flies laid eggs in his wounds and they became infested with maggots emanating a foul odor. His posture (left) shows weakness... dejection and depression. His facial expression (right) shows sadness and loss of self esteem. After six months of care (below left & right) he is muscular, his coat shines and his facial expression shows nobility, confidence and increased self worth.
Three more calves have joined the recuperation program and are already showing improvement. Prajna (right), the only female in the group, showed up at our gate emaciated two months ago and because of her good appetite is well on her way to recovery.

Below right is Jaladutta, an abandoned bull who fell into our neighbor’s water tank and was rescued by our staff. He is weak but healthy with no injuries.

Below is Haribol who we are told was beat with an iron rod for being a bull. He had a deep maggot infested wound under the right flank fold. He is traumatized and fairly sure he wants to have nothing to do with humans. (We plan to change his mind.)

We are confident that these three will follow the same course as Gopal, Nandu and Madan Mohan who will also offer vital encouragement.

We are grateful to Ganga Devi, Rukmini and Rekha who sponsor Gopal; to Hemel and Rina Patel who sponsor Nandu; to Neha who sponsors Madan Mohan; to Vera Jain who sponsors Prajna; to Gaurav Singh & Priyanka who sponsor Jaladutta; and to Farid Gasimov who sponsors Haribol.
Sriman Radhapati Prabhu left this world peacefully at 2:26 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2013. He was surrounded by loving admirers who came from many places. Some brought Ganges water from Hrishikesh, others Yamuna water from Vrindavan and others brought sacred water from Sri Radha Kund. Other loving devotees brought *maha prasad* garlands (including Tulasi garlands) from several Vrindavan Deities. A calf came from Care for Cows and nuzzled her nose in his hand, dusted his head with Vraja Raj from the tuft of her tail and offered pure cow dung to anoint his forehead.

Some devotees were reading to him form various *shastras*, others offered heart-felt *kirtana* including members of the Sri Sri Krsna Balarama Akhanda Kirtana party as well as young virgin village girls from the Sandipani Muni School in Kiki Nagla, while still others softly chanted *mahamantra* in chorus with the divine voice of Srila Prabhupada. Srimati Tulasi Devi was also present at his departure in the sacred precincts of Sri Vrindavan Dhama.

Almost sixteen years ago Sriman Radhapati was told that the brain tumor which resulted from injuries sustained during his service as a combat medic in Viet Nam could prove fatal at any moment. Thus, like Pariksit Maharaja, he resigned himself of all other duties and came to Sri Vrindavan to spend his last days. Because of his fixed determination to give up worldly interests and serve Sri Krsna with full concentration, Sri Krsna mercifully awarded him more than fifteen years of uninterrupted residence in Sri Vrindavan to purify himself before departing.

Those who knew Sriman Radhapati will testify that he was never known to waste his time with social distractions. He was absorbed in japa early in the morning, *parikrama*, *dhama seva*, *Yamuna seva*, *go seva* and especially *dhamavasi seva* the rest of the day. He offered vital assistance to the Sandipani Muni School and Care for Cows. He was naturally inclined to counsel and resolve disputes and regularly gave himself to this service.

In short, Sriman Radhapati Prabhu’s departure was glorious. Such departures are not given... rather they are earned by *tivrena bhakti yogena* -- intense devotional service. May he bless us that we may follow in his footsteps.
Since cow slaughter has been a sensitive issue in India, it comes as a relief to know that Muslims of Mev community based in Mewat of Haryana have traditionally been known as cow saviours. There were times when everyday close to 3000 cows were slaughtered in this region, but things are totally different today. While Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna is infested with abattoirs, the neighbouring areas in the foothills of Arravali mountains witness these Mev Muslims shepherd their cows and protect them.

What drove these Muslims to be cow saviours? Samir Paleja explains the factors in this fascinating cover story in the latest issue of Chitralekha. They follow all tenets of Islam with religious fervor like saying five time namaz, going on the Haj etc, but if you ever dare to broach the subject of cow slaughter here, you may be putting your life to a great risk. The Mev Muslims of Mewat-spread across UP, Rajasthan and Haryana-love their cows. The author meets the inhabitants of a village called Mevali, nestled in the foothills of Arravalli mountain range, where about 50-60 shepherd families own among themselves nearly 3000 cows. You do find here Muslim boys milking their cows. Cows here are never sent to slaughter house. In fact, Murham Khan whom the author interacts with enumerates some severe problems they have to face in this region. The area is reeling under acute water shortage and it is becoming increasingly difficult to take care of their cattle. They make an appeal to the government to make ponds of water here so that their cows do not have to go without water for a long time. Grazing may be free but in case of their cows falling sick, there are no veterinary facilities to speak of. As a consequence, a number of cows die. The story then reveals the existence of an outfit called Gwala Gaddi Samiti (loosely means Shepherd Throne Committee), which is said to date back to Lord Krishna’s times. The head of the Committee seeks to encourage the shepherds here and counsels them on how to address their cow-related issues. Spread over the area, the organization has a membership of 2 lacs cow caretakers. We are told that from Gudgaon to Alwar, extensive work is done on protection of cows. Among the people who are engaged in this word are members of Mev Muslims (80%) and Gujjar Hindus (20%). For as many as 8-9 months the Mev Muslims keep their cows in the mountains as cows find it easier to graze there amidst green slopes. Related as they are among themselves, they cooperate with each other when it comes to safeguarding each others’ cows. Explaining why they prefer cows to buffaloes, they say that not only cows are cheaper compared to buffaloes, they also munch away lots of basil grown on the mountains which leads to their milk being pure and of quality. They however rue the fact that people forsake good quality cow milk for buffaloes’ only for taste gratification. We are told that if these Gopalans (shepherds) get reasonable price for their milk, their numbers will increase. Also, another upshot of this business is that since people looking after this business have to remain busy 24X7, they do not get time to indulge in useless gossip or fall prey to addiction. This explains the low crime rate in this area. In fact, it is the thriving milk business that has had a significant impact.
on reduction on incidence of crime in the area. When people associated with this business are tied up, they hardly get time to think of anything else, let alone crime. When it comes to dairy business, these people strongly suspect that they do supply adulterated milk. It is a very unique story that throws light on the subject we hardly knew anything. The boxed story underscores the fact that though the avowed objective of their mission to make pure milk available in every house may not have fructified, they may be credited with having spread awareness among people about the malpractices-chemical adulteration of milk being resorted to by ‘dairy mafia’.
In Australia we had the privilege to visit a beautiful farm near Eumandi, Sunshine Coast of Queensland (see below) named Gold Creek Galloway Stud where miniature white Galloways are bred by Suzanne and Pam, as they say, “for the sheer pleasure of it.”
Their beautiful website (cutecattle.com) has abundant information regarding the habits and nature of miniature Galloways. They write, “As breeders we spend a lot of time and energy ensuring that our cattle are not just docile but extra quiet. We have halter-trained every new calf and as many members of our herd as is practical.”

Halter training makes the herd much easier to manage when they need to be moved from one paddock to the next.

Most interesting and encouraging is Suzanne’s desire to create awareness regarding the therapeutic value of cows. She is preparing members of their herd to be used in Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) which is a practice becoming more popular by psychologists and social workers who are convinced that abused or handicapped patients can benefit by interacting with well-loved and healthy cows. Below Rod managed to get his wheel-chair into the paddock for his session with one of the most charming AAT co-workers.
Suzanne and Pam spend many long but happy hours handling all members of their herd so that they are docile, quiet and affectionate. This of course makes them more effective AAT co-workers.

In the past funds from their adoption program went to the RSPCA to support their ‘Fair Go For Farm Animals Campaign’. But since June 30, 2013 they have taken a new path – training and preparing their cows to participate in AAT.
They write, “One of the things that we are now very aware of is the amazing untapped qualities that our cows possess. Our cows are proving to be great AAT co-workers!

“Through our contact with psychologists and other highly skilled people involved in AAT, we have also become aware of what a huge problem bullying is for children and adults alike. Bullying is becoming a big issue in schools and work places across Australia today.

“Our approach is now multifaceted. We are training some of our special cows to be AAT co-workers for the fabulous professionals who use AAT to help people deal with bullying and other problems.

“We are also educating children and adults about the wonders of our bovine friends. And we are publishing anti-bullying information online to offer assistance to adults and children who suffer at the hands of bullies.”

Gold Creek Galloway Stud are now making soft cuddly miniature Galloways for children so they can begin to appreciate the wonderful nature of cows.

“Funds raised by sales of our little cuddle cow mascots (right) will now go towards covering costs and placing these cuddly plush calves with the wonderful professionals who work with children. We hope it will help us to cover some of the costs involved in this work and allow us to continue to design and publish anti-bullying material online for everyone.”

Their new motto is:

Cows trained to make people’s lives better are cows living better lives.

Interested readers may contact Suzanne and Pam through their website cutecattle.com.
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