

Radha Kund Cows

In January our friend Dr Lavania, accompanied by the CFC medical team paid a visit to Surabhi Goshala at Radha Kund, the home of Sudevi dasi and her 100 once abandoned cows and bulls, as featured in our CFC Dec 06 news.

After a quick tour around the clean and well organized goshala we started our work of tending to the line-up of patients under Sudevi's care. Dr Lavania's first patient was Chameli, a six month old calf who had joined Surabhi Goshala only a fortnight before. She had been abandoned at Kusum Sarovara and was unable to stand on her own as both her back legs were straight and rigid. If stood up she could balance on all fours but not walk.

Sudevi demonstrated how Chameli's back legs could bend, but only by using great strength was she able to fold Chameli's legs up one at a time, however they would spring straight back down when released. Dr Lavania examined Chameli and said the cause of her problem was that her ligaments were weak and the back legs overextended. To try to correct the problem he set both of her back legs in a slightly bent

position with bamboo splints and plaster casts. Chameli was not in the slightest pain and was casually ruminating all along. After the

plaster had hardened Chameli was picked up and stood supported in a soft sling for her evening meal of fresh green grass. In a month Chameli's casts will be removed and we will see how to proceed then.



Chameli stands supported in a simple sling with both her back legs cast



Chameli's back legs remain straight and over extended. She cannot bend them unassisted.



Dr Lavania casts Chameli's leg, assisted by Sudevi dasi



Dr Lavania bends Chameli's leg which folds completely up, then springs back out when released



A bamboo splint is set in place with a plaster bandage



Both back legs set slightly bent in casts for one month



After a year of multiple casts on her broken leg, Sabari prepares for another attempt to save her leg

Other patients seen by Dr Lavania included Devaki, a cow in a serious condition with a retained dead fetus; Syamala, a cow who had been saved by Sudevi years ago with a face injury who had fallen one month back and split both her back legs at the pelvis; and Sabari, a calf who has been treated for a fractured leg over the last 12 months. Before Sabari

came to Surabhi Goshala she had given up and laid down to die outside a mechanic shop at Govardhan. She was collected on a rickshaw and brought to Sudevi who has spent months trying all she can to save Sabari's leg. Sabari has lost inches of bone from the fracture site and her leg is rubbery and flexes where the bone is missing. Dr

Lavania set the limb in a plaster cast leaving windows to access the wounds for dressing. He hopes that in time the tissue at the old fracture site will become fibrous and create a strong false joint. Sabari will be in the cast for a month and Dr Lavania will check on her progress and attend to more of Sudevi's patients on our return to Radha Kund next month.



A wound at the old fracture site has almost healed



The other side of Sabari's leg



The cast has a hole for wound dressing



Sudevi comforts Syamala who will not walk again after a fall that broke her pelvis