

COW RESCUED FROM GARBAGE ALLEY



An obscure alley exists between two *ashramas* which is a catch-all for refuse from all neighboring residents. One dark morning Pappu, with his hand cupped over a *lota*, shuffled through the debris and stumbled upon a cow lying right in the middle of his favorite dumping ground. As nature was pressing on him severley he decided not to chastise her for intruding but positioned himself just two meters from her and squatted to relieve himself.

While he grunted a faint distant voice within informed him that he really shouldn't



defacate so close to a cow... that he should consider her sacred... as a mother.

But he dismissed it, grunted some more and then began to wash as the dawn approached. While exiting, he noticed the cow had a old rag wrapped around her right hoof and from this he surmised that she was injured.

As he left, he thought that in an hour or two she would get up and go and hoped that tomorrow morning he would not again be restricted.

The next morning he was disappointed to find her still lying there and felt irritated. As he squatted, he asked himself, "Why is no one attending to this cow...? I didn't beat her.. so why should I have to be inconvenienced by her misfortune?"

He decided to counteract the injustice the world had dealt him with magnanimity and tossed her a discarded stalk of cauliflower stripped of its fruits which landed on her snout. As her parched tongue reached out to bring it into her mouth, he thought perhaps he should share a portion of his water with her but reconsidered thinking the virtue of cleanliness more important.

As he finished his business he stood and gave her tail a short tug hoping she would get up. She was too weak so Pappu decided to exercise more virtue by tolerating her presence for another morning.

The cow lay peacefully accepting her fate as she deserved no more than what Providence had provided. She expected no honor and blamed no one for her misfortune.



After eight such mornings Pappu's paitience wore thin and he decided to take action. Since it was not his duty to protect cows he set out to find those responsible for this gross neglect. His search brought him to CFC where he promptly informed us that we were not real cow protectors, for if we were, no cows would be lying in the garbage heap.

He declared that he would not rest until the cow from the garbage alley was fetched and since he was unquestionably the most concerned about cows, that he would direct the rescue operation since our intentions and competence were so questionable.

A crew of four went to the site and retrieved the starved and dehydrated cow who was so weak she could hardly sit or hold her head up. She would not eat so we put her on a drip for two days until she began to accept food.

Her right ankle was broken and infested with maggots. Two staff members and two volunteers groom her daily and hand-feed her fresh grass doing their best to boost her health and morale.

After almost one month of intensive care she is starting to get strong. We hope that she will soon be able to stand in the sling so her legs can be massaged and revitalized.

Pappu directed the rescue with the authority of a traffic policeman and was greatly relieved to see the cow removed from the alley and loaded on the ambulance, not because he hoped she would survive and recuperate, but because tomorrow morning he would be able to grunt with gusto rather than guilt.



The photos on the previous page show our crew rescuing the cow from the alley and the above ones show her being accommodated and treated at CFC.



New Delhi's Cowboys Lasso Loose Cows

Monday, December 14, 2009
NEW DELHI, India – Stray cows are no strangers to the streets of India's capital. But city authorities have ordered that all bovines must be removed from the roads. And city employees like Chandan Singh and Parveen Kumar have taken on a new role – cowboys herding street cattle.

"The danger is plenty in the job," Singh said. "Sometimes the cows get really mad and charge us. Many catchers sustain injuries."

Singh, 38, and Kumar, 37, are on the same team with about 16 other cow catchers.

"Sometimes I still have a strange feeling that I'm doing a bad thing," said Kumar. "My family doesn't like what I do because cows are our sacred animal. But it's my duty. I just have to." *

The majority of Indians are Hindus and they consider cows divine animals. In Indian mythology, cows have been accorded the status of a maternal figure and are considered to be givers of wealth and prosperity.

Sending cows to slaughterhouses is unthinkable in India and cow slaughter is banned in most states. After they stop yielding milk, cows are abandoned and allowed to die naturally. As a result, cows are often left to walk the city streets aimlessly.

But the wandering cows often cause traffic havoc and

pose a danger to drivers and pedestrians alike. **

After frustrated residents filed complaints to Delhi's high court, judges ordered the city to clear stray cows from the streets in 2003. But there was no easy fix and the problem persists.

The city employs about 180 full-time cow catchers and has divided them into 12 different zones.



*** Kumar, the "strange feeling" is the Paramatma telling you not to rustle cows. Your duty is to listen to that instruction.**

**** The cows are in the street because man has usurped their natural habitat, exploited them thoroughly and then abandoned them. Cows don't pose a danger to man... man poses a danger to cows!**