

CHAPTER – 2

MANAGEMENT OF ZOOS AND DEER PARKS

2.1 Central Zoo Authority guidelines for the creation and operation of zoos and Deer Park

2.1.1 Creation of New zoo and Deer Park

As per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 no zoo can be operated without recognition of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), a statutory organization set up under the Act. The definition of the word 'Zoo' under the Act covers all mobile and stationary establishments other than circuses and establishments of licensed animal dealers that exhibit animals included in the Schedules of the Act to the public. The Zoos are required to get recognition from CZA for their operation. No zoo is entitled to operate without recognition from the Authority.

Operation of establishments covered under the definition of zoos and appearing in the list of CZA are legal. Action should be taken against management of any zoo not covered in the list of CZA for operating in violation of the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act. The Chief Wildlife Warden may be kept apprised of the action taken.

As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India issued vide their judgement Dated 20-11-2000, no State Government or Union Territory shall set up a new zoo without getting clearance from the Central Zoo Authority and orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

2.1.2 Acquisition and Transfer of wild animals in a Zoo and Deer Park

The source of animals acquired in the zoo can be any of the following: -

- Exchange with other zoos (Indian or Foreign)
- Breeding at the zoo
- Acquired from the wild (only in case of approved conservation breeding program) with the permission of appropriate authority depending as to what schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act, the animal belongs to.
- Gift from other zoos

- Received as a rescued animal (with the permission of Chief Wildlife Warden, Punjab)

Periodically, all zoo directors keep sharing the lists of surplus and required animals with other zoo directors based on which an exchange proposal is drawn up and then sent to CZA in case of Schedule I and II animals and to the CWLW of the respective states in case of Schedule III and IV animals. Under normal circumstances, acquisition of animals from the wild is prohibited.

2.1.3 Management issues in Zoo and Deer Park

Some of the management issues encountered by a zoo manager are as follows:

- i. Providing proper housing facility to the animals as close to their natural habitat as possible in order to ensure that they exhibit their natural behaviour including normal breeding.
- ii. Ensuring timely supply of healthy, wholesome, clean and hygienic food in sufficient quantities for the animals.
- iii. Carrying out disinfections, vaccinations and de-worming of animals as per the chalked out schedules.
- iv. Protecting animals from vandals and bad elements that try to tease and disturb animals.
- v. Making timely risk purchases in emergent circumstances when the contractors fail to supply any feed item due to some reason.
- vi. Providing requisite veterinary care to sick or injured animals.
- vii. Managing immediate housing requirements and veterinary care to rescued animals that arrive from the field areas.
- viii. Mixing or pairing of animals into compatible groups for display and breeding purposes.
- ix. Maintaining a fear free living environment for the animals that are threatened by the dominant individuals
- x. Managing emergencies like outbreak of a disease, epidemic, infighting among animals and so on.
- xi. Providing proper visitor facilities especially clean toilets, supply of potable water, rain shelters and resting places.
- xii. Deputing staff on duty in various sections of the zoo on a daily basis especially in case of staff on leave and on holidays. This also includes deputing security staff for security beyond the working hours of the zoo.

- xiii. Daily management of parking spaces, canteens, restaurant, ticket window, entry gate and traffic inside the zoo in order to ensure smooth entry and safety of the visitors.
- xiv. Disposing off left over food items, animal excreta and rubbish getting generated in the zoo daily in order to ensure a clean environment.
- xv. Ensuring round the clock supply of potable water for drinking in every feeding cell by deputing staff day and night.
- xvi. Ensuring proper handling of animals during restraining for treatment or transportation/shifting purposes.
- xvii. Carrying out educational and outreach activities for public awareness especially students.
- xviii. Briefing press and media on technical matters relating to zoo management especially during animal deaths, diseases and injuries.
- xix. Keeping a watch on the behaviour of visitors, contractors and the subordinate staff in order to ensure an amiable environment.

2.1.4 Disposal of dead carcass in Zoo and Deer Park

The Technical Committee of Central Zoo Authority discussed the mode of disposal of carcasses of the animals that die in zoos. The normal method of disposal of carcasses should be either burying or burning.

Special care has to be taken in respect of carcasses of leopards, lions and tigers. These should be disposed of by burning in the presence of zoo directors themselves, so that the possibilities of skeleton/trophies being smuggled into illegal trade can totally be ruled out. Skinning of animals and processing their skins for making trophies leads not only in wastage of government money but also involves the risk of some of these trophies being smuggled into clandestine trade.

The carcasses of animals that die of anthrax or such other communicable diseases should be disposed of only by burying, without opening the body cavity.

2.1.5 Prohibition of teasing, etc., in a zoo

No person shall tease, molest, injure or feed any animal or cause disturbance to the animals by noise or otherwise, or litter the grounds in a zoo. The persons found teasing, molesting,

injuring, feeding any wild animal or causing disturbance to the animals or littering the grounds of zoo shall be punishable with imprisonment upto six months or fine upto Rs. 2000/- or both.

2.1.6 Maintenance of Records and Submission of Inventory to the Central Zoo Authority

Every zoo shall keep a record of the birth, acquisitions, sales, disposals, and deaths of all animals. The inventory of the animals housed in each zoo as on 31st March of every year shall be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority by the 30th April of the same year.

Every zoo shall also submit a brief summary of the death of animals in the zoo for every financial year, along with the reasons of death identified on the basis of post-mortem reports and other diagnostic tests, by 30th April of the following year. In case of death of critically endangered species, a report along with details specified above shall be submitted to Central Zoo Authority within twenty four hours.

Every zoo shall submit an annual report of the activities of the zoo in respect of each financial year to the Central Zoo Authority. With respect to mini zoos, a consolidated report may be submitted to the Chief Wild Life Warden of the respective State/U.T.

Various policies, directions and guidelines related to management of zoo are attached as Appendix 1 to Appendix 16.