(Central Zoo Authority directive issued to Directors/Curators of Large/Medium/Small Zoos vide CZA Letter No. 7-2/94-CZA (VK) dated 20.1.1995)

UPKEEP OF ELEPHANTS IN ZOOS

The Central Zoo Authority in its meeting held on 25th August, 1994 has recommended that zoos should provide moated cubicles/night shelters for every individual elephant so that it is not necessary to keep the elephants chained most part of the day. No elephant except male elephant in "Musth" should be chained. Till the appropriate housing arrangements are not there, all the zoos should use leather belts under the chain or any other protective device so that the elephants do not get injured as a result of being chained for long duration. Even if it is necessary to keep some elephants chained particularly those used for joy rides, it should be ensured that the chains do not have any spikes and are loose enough to allow elephants some movement.

(Central Zoo Authority directive issued to Directors/Curators of Large/Medium/Small Zoos vide CZA Letter No. 7-2/94-CZA (VK) dated 7.2.1995)

POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES FOR

HYBRID LIONS AND TIGERS OF DOUBTFUL LINEAGE

The Central Zoo Authority has decided that breeding of hybrid lions and tigers of unknown lineage should not be permitted under any circumstances because these animals are not of any conservation value.

The Authority has also recommended that population control measures in respect of prolifically breeding species like Tiger, Panther, Sambhar, Blue Bull and Chital. The optimum number of animals of each species in any Zoo is as follows:

Category of Zoo	No. of Tiger/ Panther	No. of Blue Bull Chital,
		Sambar and Black Buck
Large	10	20
Medium	6	12
Small	4	10

The Zoos who already have more animals than the number mentioned above should be take immediate steps to stop further breeding of these species and try to transfer the excessive number to other Zoos.

The decision was made with view to ensure proper utilisation of the Zoo resources. Feeding excessive number of animals is not only a drain on financial resources of the Zoo but also causes Management problems.

(Directive issued vide CZA Letter No. 24-2/95-CZA dated 24.1.1996) DISPOSING CARCASS OF ZOOS ANIMALS

"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."

(Directive issued vide CZA Letter No. 7-2/94-CZA (VK) dated 20.1.1995)

EUTHANASIA OF ZOO ANIMALS

"The Central Zoo Authority in its meetings held on 25th August, 1994 has recommended that euthanasia of zoo animals may be carried out only in the specific circumstances when any animal is in such an agony or pain that it is cruel to keep it alive. The animal should not be euthanised without getting the animal examined by a team comprising of Zoo Veternarian, a member of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) wherever available" and a Senior Veterinarian, preferably a Professor in the neighbouring Veterinary College/Agriculture University. A member of the Animal Welfare Board may also be involved in such examination, wherever it is possible.

Compliance of the above recommendations of the Authority may be ensured while euthanasing any zoo animal."

(Directive issued to Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States/Union Territories vide CZA Letter No. 25-1/2000-CZA dated 6.5.2000)

SUPPLY OF QUALITY FEED FOR ZOO ANIMALS

It has been brought to the notice of the Central Zoo Authority that quality and wholesome feed is not being supplied in some of the zoos. The common refrain of the zoo management is that the procedure for procurement of feed items entails accepting lowest quotation in the tender.

The procedure for procurement of feed needs to be reviewed by the concerned State Government Authorities. It is suggested that a system of tender may be introduced where in sample of various feed items and the price quotation thereof can be asked for in separate sealed envelopes. Price bids of only those tenders may be opened whose feed samples are found to be of proper quality.

In case of meat supply for the tigers and other carnivores, such abattoir which does not have the valid licence from the concerned Municipal Corporation should not be allowed to participate in tender. The zoo authorities must ensure that meat which is duly stamped (certified) by the veterinarian of the concerned municipality is supplied to the zoo inmates. Necessary instructions on the lines may be issued to the concerned authorities.

(Directive issued to District Magistrate/Collectors of all States vide CZA Letter No.11-4/2000-CZA dated 9.2.2001)

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ZOOS

As per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended in 1991) under which no zoo can be operated without recognition of the Central Zoo Authority, 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 to 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 establishment covered under the definition of zoos and not appearing in the enclosed list is illegal. Action should be taken against management of any zoo not covered by this list for operating in violation of the provisions of the Act. The Authority may be kept apprised of the action taken.

As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court issued vide their judgement dt. 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.

(Directive issued to Chief Wildlife Warden of all States and Directors/Officer Incharge of the Zoos vide CZA Letter No.11-4/2000-CZA dated 10.12.2001)

DISPLAY OF COMMON ANIMAL IN ZOOS

"In the zoo directors meeting held in 2000 decided "since that resources becoming in increasingly scareer, therefore with a view to optimal utilization of the available resources, all zoos should phase out the domestic animals which do not serve the objective of wildlife conservation from their collection immediately. Hybrid specimen collections should not be bred and should be phased out".

In the light of the above observation, it has been decided that the following animals should not be kept in the collection of zoos:-

- a. Rabbit
- b. Guinea pig
- c. Siamese cat
- d. Goats
- e. Camel
- f. Ass/pony
- g. Mithun
- h. Horse
- i. Sheep
- j. Rat
- k. Mice
- I. Bullock
- m. Pigeons (blue rock and its hybrid)
- n. Turkey
- o. Bantam heb
- p. Guinea fowl and its variants like polish and silky sidney
- q. Domestic hen and its variants
- r. Domestic ducks and its variants
- s. Mongoose
- t. Yak

(Directive issued to Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the States vide CZA Letter No.7-12/2000-CZA (126) (N) dated 18.7.2002)

CONSTITUTIONS OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Recognition of Zoo Rules prescribes standards and norms for health care, hygiene and upkeep of animals under Rule 10 (Norm Nos. 21 to 30). Central Zoo Authority carries out evaluation of Zoos with respect to compliance of these norms periodically, generally on every second year. However, there is no mechanism for regular monitoring of compliance of these norms at the State level (except Orissa and National Zoological Park, New Delhi).

State Government are, therefore, recommended to constitute Health Advisory Committee comprising of experienced Veterinarians with a mandate to advise the zoo managements in the state on animal health care and related matters. The Committee should visit zoos at least once every three months and monitor the compliance of the health care standards prescribed under the Recognition of Zoo rules referred to above.

(Directive issued to Directors of Large, Medium, Small and Mini Zoos having Tigers, Lions, Leopards in their collection vide CZA Letter No.7-12/2000-CZA (N) dated 20.6.2003

MONITORING OF HYGIENE AND INCIDENCE OF BLOOD BORNE

DISEASE IN ZOOS

In the wake of the death of large number of tigers at Nandankanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar in June-July, 2000, instructions were issued vide Reference No. 1 for carrying out measures for improvement of hygiene within the zoo around the animal enclosures and adopting preventive measures for disease control and health care of carnivores, particularly tigers, lions and leopards. The aforesaid instructions have been repeated vide Reference No. 2 & 3 above in subsequent years.

Compliance of aforesaid guidelines as indicated in the circulars referred to above has helped in reduction of the overall mortalities of carnivores in zoos in the country during the last two years.

The measures suggested in the guidelines are:

- a. Improvement of hygiene of the animal enclosures and its surrounding viz removal of weeds and bush cutting to reduce the vector load, cleaning of moats and sewer lines and proper disposal of solid wastes.
- b. Screening of animals against ecto & endo-parasite infestation.
- c. Carrying out blood tests of animals of important species in a planned and systematic manner, without causing undue stress to the animals, with a view to identify incidence of blood borne parasites & take appropriate prophylactic/ remedial measures.
- d. Medicine of essential nature to be procured in reasonable quantities and kept in zoo hospitals to meet emergencies.