

Guidelines for Euthanasia of Zoo Animals

Note: These guidelines state that euthanasia should be administered only when any animal is in such pain and is suffering to the extent that it would be cruel for it continue living.

The animal must first be examined by the zoo veterinarian, a senior veterinarian and a member of the SPCA and Animal Welfare Board if possible. Only on their approval, can euthanasia be carried out on such animal.

(Issued to directors/curators of Large/Medium/Small zoos vide Central Zoo authority letter No.7-2/94-CZA (VK) dated 20.1.1995

"The Central Zoo Authority in its meeting 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 him alive. The animal should not be euthanised without getting the animal examined by a team comprising of the Zoo Veterinarian, a member of 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.

You are requested to ensure compliance of the above recommendations of the Authority while euthanasing any zoo animal."