

Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009

- **Rule 2 - Definitions:**

Note: In any legislation, terms defined by a definition clause will assume the meaning provided in such definition throughout the statute. The following definitions will therefore aid you throughout your interpretation of these rules.

In these rules unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “Act” means the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972);
- (b) “Central Zoo Authority” means the Central Zoo Authority constituted under section 38A of the Act;
- (c) “Conservation Breeding Centre” means the facility specially dedicated to planned conservation breeding of an endangered species of wildlife.
- (d) “Enclosure” means any accommodation provided for zoo animals.
- (e) “Enclosure barrier” means a physical barrier to contain an animal within an enclosure.
- (f) “Endangered Species” means species included in Schedule I and Schedule II of the Act.
- (g) “Critically endangered species” means an endangered species whose total number in all the zoos in the country put together does not exceed 200.
- (h) “Form” means a form appended to these rules.
- (i) “Performance” means any effort to force the animal to carry out unnatural act including performance of circus tricks.
- (j) “Rescue Centre” means an establishment for the long-term care of animals specified in the Schedules to the Act.
- (k) “Stand-of-barrier” means a physical barrier set back from the outer edge of an enclosure barrier.
- (l) “Zoo Director” means an in-charge of the zoo with whatever designation, responsible for day to day management of the zoo.
- (m) “Zoo Operator” means the person who has ultimate control over the affairs of the zoos provided that

I. in the case of a firm or other association of individuals, any one of the individual partners or members thereof; or

II. in the case of a company, any director, manager, secretary or other officer, who is in-charge of and responsible to the company for the affairs of the zoo; or

III. In case of zoo owned or controlled by the Central Government or any State Government or Union Territory Administration or any Trust or Society funded by the Central Government or a State Government or a Union Territory Administration, the Secretary of the concerned Department of that Government, or as the case may be the Union Territory Administration, shall be deemed to be the Zoo Operator.

- **Rule 7 - Form of recognition**

Note: Sub-rule (2) expressly states that the recognition granted by the Authority to a zoo is subject to the zoo maintaining the norms and standards specified under the Act and the Rules. Such recognition is also subject to the zoo's compliance with directions and guidelines issued by the Authority. This rule therefore enforces the guidelines issued by the Authority and makes it mandatory for zoos to comply with them.

(2) The recognition granted to a zoo under sub-rule (1) shall be subject to the following conditions, namely;

(b) that the zoo shall comply with such standards and norms as are, or may be specified or imposed, by or under the provisions of the Act or the rules made thereunder; and

(c) the zoo shall comply with the directions and guidelines issued by the Central Zoo Authority (*hereinafter referred to as the Authority*) from time to time, for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of the zoo.

- **Rule 10 - Standards and norms for recognition:**

Note: This rule makes the standards in the Schedule mandatory to follow.

The Central Zoo Authority shall grant recognition to a zoo, with due regard to the interest of protection and conservation of wildlife, and on being satisfied that the standards and norms and other matters specified in the Schedule are met by such zoo:

Provided that the Central Zoo Authority may, if it considers appropriate, and for reason to be recorded in writing, grant recognition, with conditions, if any, to such zoo which have shown considerable improvement in the past and have the potential and resources to come up to the prescribed standards and norms within a reasonable time frame and are willing to do so. Such an action would lead to qualitative improvement in the zoos, and avoid logistic problems arising due to the closure of the zoos on the basis of their present status.

THE SCHEDULE

[See rule 10]

1. General requirements: *These are the standards and norms that zoos are legally obligated to follow, in order to gain recognition by the Authority.*

(1) Sustain healthy population of animals

Every zoo shall endeavour to establish and sustain population of physically, genetically and behaviorally healthy animals for furthering the cause of wildlife conservation and communicating credible conservation message to the visitors through display of healthy animals in naturalistic setting

(3) Regulate visitors' movements to prevent disturbing the animals; keep zoo closed at least one day per week

Every zoo shall endeavour to regulate the movement of visitors in the zoo in such a manner that zoo animals are not unduly disturbed, stressed or provoked and the zoo shall be closed to visitors at least one day in a week.

(4) Design appropriate barriers between visitors and animals

Every zoo, as a safeguard against the un-regulated access of visitors to the zoo and zoo animals being subjected to injury, pilferage and predation, shall design appropriately the barriers along the boundary of the zoo in accordance with the standards issued by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

(5) Maintain a two meter high wall around the entire zoo, where human landscape is near

Every zoo, which is surrounded by human landscape shall be encompassed by a perimeter wall of at least two meter in height from the ground level on both sides.

(8) Sick or injured animals must not be displayed

Every zoo shall refrain from display of sick, injured, infirm and tethered animals to the visitors and such animals shall be housed in off-display facilities specially earmarked for and providing appropriate upkeep and healthcare for such animals

(9) No domestic animals

Every zoo shall refrain from housing of domestic animals and pets within the zoo premises and adequate safeguards shall also be put in place to prevent the entry of domestic livestock, stray animals and pets into the premises of the zoo.

3. Development and Planning

(4) Maintain green belt and natural vegetation

Atleast 30% of the area earmarked for the zoo shall be kept under green belt and natural vegetation and the area for animal housing shall not exceed 30% area of the zoo.

(5) Design buildings such that hygiene and cleanliness are maintained

Every zoo shall take adequate care to locate and design all 'pucca' buildings including the visitor facilities in such a manner that the natural landscape of the zoo and animal enclosures are not masked and the cleanliness and hygiene of the zoo is not affected.

(6) Collection plan to be maintained for climate, health, etc of species.

Every zoo must maintain adequate housing standards for the animals.

Every zoo shall, in consultation with the Central Zoo Authority, prepare a collection plan indicating the names of the species and maximum number of animals of each species to be housed in the zoo, having due regard to the congeniality of the climatic conditions of the locality for the general health and well being of the species, availability of the space and infrastructural support for proper upkeep and healthcare of the species, proximity of the zoo to the habitat range of the species and the past record of the zoo in management and breeding of the species and no zoo shall compromise on housing and upkeep standards of animals for accommodating new species or additional animals of the species in its collection.

(7) Rescued animals are prohibited from being accepted by zoos unless there are appropriate enclosures and facilities

No zoo shall accept any rescued animal unless it has appropriately designed enclosure and upkeep facilities for the animal as well as the facilities for keeping it in isolation during quarantine period.

(8) If a zoo houses a rescued animal, it is obligated to send details of location source, facilities etc to the Chief Wildlife Warden

Whenever any zoo decides to accept any rescued animal for housing, a detailed report regarding the source from which the animal has been received, legality of its acquisition and the facilities

available at the zoo for housing, upkeep and healthcare shall be sent to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.

Provided that in case, the rescued animal pertains to an endangered species a copy of the report shall also be sent to the Central Zoo Authority.

4. Animal housing, display of animals and animal enclosures

(1) Natural enclosures for animals

Every zoo shall endeavour to display the animals in nature immersing enclosures.

(2) Maintain enclosures according to species requirements and number of animals

The designs and dimensions of every enclosure shall be determined having due regard to the biological behaviour of the species and the number of animals to be housed therein as per the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard from time to time.

(3) Enclosure must be safe, secure and provide necessary space for free movement and natural behaviour of animals

The zoo shall ensure that the enclosure is safe and secure for the animals, animal keepers and the visitors and has requisite space for free movement, exercise and expression of natural behaviour by the animals.

(4) Provide adequate space so that animals inside can avoid dominant herd members

Adequate space shall also be made available to the animals in order to maintain safe distance from the dominant animals in the group or herd.

(5) Zoos are prohibited from deviating from standards of the Authority

No zoo shall display any animal in the enclosure that is not in accordance with the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

(6) Obligation to improve environment meet species individual behavioural requirements

Every zoo shall make special efforts to enrich the environment of the enclosure to meet the species specific behavioural requirements of the animals in accordance with the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority.

(7) Provide proper screening so that animals do not get aggravated at the sight of other zoo inmates

Adequate screening shall be provided between adjacent enclosures to safeguard against the animals getting unduly excited or stressed due to visibility of animals housed in these enclosures

(8) New enclosures for endangered species require Authority's permission

No new enclosures for endangered species shall be constructed without prior approval of the Central Zoo Authority.

(9) Safe distance from animals

Every zoo shall provide appropriately designed and effective stand off barriers at every animal display enclosure to regulate the movement of visitors in the zoo in a manner that facilitates the visitors in getting unobstructed view of wild animals, without reaching in the vicinity or proximity of the animals and getting the opportunity to physically touch or provoke the animals and shall also display adequate sign boards so as to give warning to the visitors to keep a safe distance from the animals.

5. Upkeep and healthcare of animals

(1) Maintain animal in proper social and behavioural groups according to species

Every zoo shall house and maintain the animals in its collection in socially and behaviourally viable groups. No animal shall be separated from the group unless doing so is necessary for the security and welfare of the animal or other animals in the group.

Provided that the animals, so separated, shall be housed in accordance with standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

(2) Provide food at qualities and quantities required of each individual species and ensure no under-nourishment due to dominant animals in the herd.

Further must ensure 24-hour supply of potable drinking water for all animals

Every zoo shall endeavour to provide all the animals in its collection timely supply of quality food of such a composition and in such quantities that nutritional and behavioural requirement of each animal are fully met and adequate safeguards shall be taken to ensure that no animal remains under-nourished on account of dominant animals not permitting other animals getting

their share of the feed and the zoo operator shall ensure round the clock supply of potable water to all the animals in the zoo.

(3) Timing, placement and distribution of food must enable animals to express natural instincts

The timing of distribution of food, placement of food and way of distribution of food to the animals shall be regulated in such a manner that the animals get maximum opportunity to express natural instincts and skills and behaviour related to feeding.

(4) Feeding cells and kraals for protection during extreme weather to be provided

As a safeguard against feral animals, free ranging wild animals and scavengers sharing the feed of the zoo animals, each animal shall be provided feed in the feeding cells/ kraals specially earmarked for the purpose and such feeding cells and kraals shall be so designed that these can also serve as indoor enclosures for the animals during extreme weather conditions as well as for secure stay during the nights:

Provided that the dimensions and designs of the feeding cells and kraal shall be as per the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority.

(5) Clean and disinfect all feeding cells and kraals as per veterinary officers' advice

Every zoo operators shall ensure that the left over feed, excreta of animals and all other wastes are removed promptly from the feeding cells and kraals and the feeding cells and kraals are washed and disinfected as per the advice of the authorized veterinary officers and the solid and the liquid waste generated during the process shall be disposed off in such manner that has no adverse impact on the hygiene and cleanliness of the zoo and the landscape surrounding the zoo.

(6) Animals to be handled only by experienced and trained staff

The curatorial and the veterinary staff shall keep a close watch on the general behaviour and health parameters of the zoo animals. The animals shall be handled only by the staff having experience and training in handling the individual animals.

(7) Detect symptoms of abnormal behaviour and provide prompt medical attention

Any animal that shows any sign of dullness, loss of appetite, injury or abnormal behaviour shall be thoroughly assessed and provided medical attention promptly as per the standards specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard from time to time and the direction of the Zoo administration.

(8) Screen animals for parasites and consult veterinary officer

Every zoo animal shall be screened for parasitic loads as per written schedule prepared by the zoo in consultation with the veterinary officer and prophylactic medicines administered as per clinical requirements and vaccination of animals against infectious diseases shall also be done, as per the schedule prescribed by the Veterinary Officer from time to time.

(9) Regularly screen animals

Diseased animals to be treated and separated from infected employees

All staff involved with upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals shall be screened against zoonotic diseases once every year and those found positive to any communicable disease shall be provided appropriate treatment till they get cured and freed of the infection and during the period of such treatment, the infected employees shall be kept away from the responsibility of upkeep and healthcare of the animals.

6. Veterinary and infrastructure facilities

Zoos are required to be completely equipped with veterinary facilities which can accommodate each kind of animal, including proper wards to hold patients, operation theatres for surgical procedures and a wide extensive range of drugs to treat animals.

A mini-zoo, even if it does not have the facilities mentioned above, should at least have a proper treatment room for the animals.

Zoos are prohibited from acquiring expensive and technically superior diagnostic equipment unless there are qualified people to handle the same.

Every zoo is required to have a postmortem room, isolation ward, quarantine ward, animal restraining and tranquilizing equipment as well as a reference library on veterinary care.

Tranquilization of any animal must strictly abide by the standards specified by the Authority.

(1) Every zoo shall,

- (a) have veterinary facilities appropriate to the size and type of the animal collection of the zoo;
- (b) have a full fledged veterinary unit with all basic diagnostic facilities, comprehensive range of drugs, operation theatre and in-patient wards.
- (c) Provided that a mini zoo shall have at least facilities of a treatment room.

(2) No zoo shall acquire sophisticated and costly diagnostic equipments unless there is adequate technically qualified manpower to operate and use the same.

(3) Every zoo, except mini zoo, shall have a postmortem room, isolation ward, quarantine ward, animal restraining and tranquilizing equipments and a veterinary care reference library.

(4) Tranquilization of any animal shall be done exercising utmost care and following the standards specified in this regard by the Central Zoo Authority from time to time.

Provided that a Mini zoo shall have atleast one whole time employee to take care of upkeep and feeding of the zoo animals.

7. Post-mortem and disposal of carcasses of animals

Note: Every dead animal must necessarily undergo a comprehensive post-mortem by a registered vet so as to find the cause of death.

Where the cause of death is uncertain, then further examination must be carried out by a qualified specialized diagnostic laboratory, on samples of tissues, blood, organs etc.

Every zoo is obligated to ensure that disposal of carcasses by way of burying or burning is carried out in such a way that the zoo maintains its standards of cleanliness and hygiene.

Carcasses of large cats must only be disposed of by burning in front of the Director or authorized official to prevent smuggling or illegal trade in skins, trophies etc.

Where the animal died of anthrax or such other communicable disease, the animal's carcass should not be opened up and subjected to a post-mortem but instead be buried intact.

(1) Every animal died in the zoo shall be subjected to a detailed postmortem examination by registered veterinarian to determine conclusively the cause of the death.

(3) In the event of the post mortem being inconclusive and no specific reason for death is identified, the zoo authorities shall send the samples of the tissues and organs, blood, viscera etc. for further examination to the qualified diagnostic laboratory having adequate specialization for further investigation and identifying the cause of death.

(4) Every zoo shall ensure that the carcasses of the animals, after the post-mortem has been conducted, is disposed off by burying or burning in a manner that does not have any adverse impact on the hygiene and cleanliness of the zoo:

Provided that the carcasses of large cats shall be disposed off by burning in the presence of the Director of the zoo or any officer in the next rank to him and authorized by him in this behalf.

Provided further that the carcasses of animals died due to Anthrax or such other communicable diseases shall not be opened and subjected to post-mortem, as a safeguard against spread of the disease. These shall be buried intact.

8. Euthanasia of the animals

Note: Euthanasia is only permitted where it is essential to eliminate such animal for the health of other animals, or the animal is suffering from such pain that it is necessary to relieve such animal.

Euthanasia will be administered in accordance with the norms specified by the Authority.

(1) No animal in the zoo shall be euthanized unless doing so is essential for the health of other animals or relieving the animal from unnecessary suffering or agony and whenever such exigencies arrives, action may be taken in accordance with the norms specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

9. Acquisition and breeding of animals

(1) Appropriate sex ratio to optimize breeding

Every zoo shall endeavour to keep and maintain animals of various species in their collection in such a sex ratio that optimizes breeding and helps in developing a self-sustaining population of each species.

(2) Strive to introduce unrelated new animals to zoo to prevent constant in-breeding

To safeguard against ill effects of inbreeding on the zoo population, the zoo shall endeavour to introduce unrelated animals to zoo stock through exchange, loaning and getting gifts of animals from other zoos.

(3) Prohibition of acquisition of single animal or non-viable number of animals unless required for naturally encouraging biological companionship

No zoo shall acquire single animal or genetically non-viable number of animals unless such acquisition is necessary for pairing of single animals or making the group genetically/biologically viable.

(4) Strive to acquire mates for single and unpaired animals within six months, following which a transfer must be executed as be the Authority norms

Every zoo shall endeavour to acquire mates for single and unpaired animals on priority basis and in the event of any zoo failing to find a mate for single and unpaired animal within a period of

six months, the unpaired or single animal shall be transferred or exchanged or given on breeding loan to any other zoo in accordance with the norms specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

(5) Comply with standards of transportation of animals as laid down by the Authority

For the purpose of transportation of animals from one place to another, the standards specified in this regard by the Central Zoo Authority shall be complied with.

(6) Responsibility of zoos to help identified zoos in implementation of breeding programmes

The Central Zoo Authority shall assign the responsibility of conservation breeding of the identified critically endangered species to identified zoos having technical capabilities and housing facilities, preferably close to the distribution range of the species and every zoo shall help the identified zoos in implementing the breeding programme.

(7) Surplus animals can be used for display only according to the best quality of housing and infrastructure

The surplus animals from the breeding population shall be made available to the contributing zoo for display purposes on the basis of quality of housing and infrastructural facilities available with the zoos.

(9) Limit number of animals according to animal collection plan by appropriate measures of segregation of sexes, vasectomy, tubectomy etc., while considering the long-term health and welfare of the animals

Every zoo shall endeavour to limit the number of animals of each species within the limits set by the animal collection plan of the zoo by implementing appropriate population control measures like segregation of sexes, vasectomy, tubectomy and implantation of pellets etc., with due consideration of the health and welfare of the animals and interest of their long term survival.

(10) Prevent escape of animals

Every zoo shall take effective measures to safeguard against escape of the zoo animals from the premises of the zoo and in the event of any accidental escape, immediate action shall be taken to retrieve the escaped animals.

(11) Release of captive animals into the wild can only occur as perm norms of the Authority

No zoo shall release any captive animal into the wild except in accordance with the norms specified by the Central Zoo Authority in this regard.

(12) Prevent hybridization of species

Every zoo shall ensure that no hybridization of species or races of same species takes place in the zoo.

11. Education and outreach activities

Note: Physical handling or performances by animals on the pretext of “educational activities” are expressly prohibited

(2) No physical handling or performances by animals shall be permitted as part of educational activity.