

## **Recommended guidelines during stakeholder meetings on “Elephants' Upkeep in Zoos” (held on 18.03.2013 & 25.10.2013)**

1. CZA upholds ban on zoos that lack space and appropriate environment for housing elephants.
2. CZA bans further intake of elephants (except elephants rescued from the wild, confiscated and old / abandoned / abused elephants, as mentioned in CZA guidelines on dealing with rescued animals).
3. CZA may permit some zoos to house elephants subject to the zoo's willingness to provide increased area, a better environment, higher quality of welfare for elephants and comply with CZA guidelines and specific conditions laid down by CZA Sub-committee for the housing of elephants.
4. Zoos that are able to provide large forested/vegetated environment, lakes or water body, adequate space and expert veterinary support may be considered by CZA for retention of elephants provided the above conditions are met with.
5. Elephant enclosures in zoos should have a minimum of 1.2 acres per elephant. It is recommended to house elephants in small groups and not as single animals. This is in addition to the water body and confinement zone (where the elephant could be tethered for conditioning the elephants for easy handling for veterinary examination, bathing, foot care etc.) (or what is called the Elephant House).
6. Time period for compliance for zoos applying for retaining elephants is six months failing which they have to shift their elephants out of their zoos.
7. All elephant management practices followed at the zoo should conform to the needs of the elephants and not oriented towards visitors.
8. Using zoo elephants at temples, processions or riding is banned
9. The CZA guidelines for Elephant housing and management to be reviewed by the CZA sub-committee keeping in mind modern elephant management and training practices.
10. The CZA sub-committee may guide the zoos with regard to elephant management, design of elephant enclosures, humane training and handling methods, enrichment and keeper training.

11. CZA will subject zoos retaining elephants to regular evaluation to ensure compliance.
12. The Govt. of India and State Governments must initiate the establishment of ideal rescue centers that comply with guidelines.
13. The CZA may guide the zoos keeping elephants on their proper upkeep from time to time.
14. Allow the elephant with minimal interference of human being including Mahout/ keepers.
15. Elephants with human imprint should not be released back to the wild, such animals may be sent to elephant camps at National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
16. Regular training courses for Zoo Mahout should be taken by Central Zoo Authority every year.
17. Elephant riding by Mahout is not required all the time. Elephant should be allowed to walk on its own.
18. Chain (in case used) of the elephant should be covered by the fire hoses.
19. When the zoo is opened to the visitors, the Mahout should not be moving with the elephant.
20. The cleaning of enclosure should be completed before opening the zoo to the visitors.
21. Cambering of platform should be easy to getting up/ sleeping of elephants.
22. The food should be kept in different area of the enclosure in order to keep the elephants active and maximize the utilization of the animal enclosure.
23. The ground provided for housing elephants should be kuccha made of mud.
24. No chaining at the first instance, if required the elephants should be kept tied only in one leg with chain/ rope covered by leather tubes, the legs for tying may be changed alternately.
25. Only when any elephant excited, irritated or creating any problem or in musth, the elephants (male/ female) should be more securely tied (may

be tied on more than one leg) or other restraining measures can be taken.

26. Daily walk/ exercise for atleast two hours in the early morning hours should be given to all the elephants.
27. Tree fodder like peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), jamun (*Schizigium cumini*) and neem (*Azardiractha indica*) should be provided along with the branches.
28. Treatment records should be kept as per the proforma provided by the Central Zoo Authority.
29. Faecal samples of the animals should be examined periodically in the laboratory.
30. Screening against infectious and contagious diseases should be made regularly.
31. Birth, death and acquisition report should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority at the end of each financial year.
32. The zoo must procure a set of tranquilizing equipment with essential drugs for meeting the emergencies particularly when they have a young bull elephant which is coming to musth.
33. The elephants housed in the Zoos should have a microchip implanted, the details should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority.
34. Enrichment of Elephant Housing (Habitat-Forested/Vegetation, Social, Dietary, Water pools/lakes, logs, rock, timber, dry tree, sand and basking)

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