

Guidelines for exchange or transfer of animals between Zoos

Preamble:

Initially the Zoos were functioning as Centres for exhibition of wild animals for satisfying the curiosity of the visitors. Over a period of time, their role has changed from mere exhibition centres to centres of conservation. The new role has put upon the Zoos a responsibility of providing the animals in their stock better housing and upkeep which can ensure that there are no premature deaths and the animals live a quality life of adequate longevity. Such measures are crucial for developing self-sustaining population of endangered species in Zoos and provide viable groups of compatible animals of breeding age. This objective can be achieved only through expeditious transfer/exchange of animals from one Zoo to another. Keeping single animals or unpaired animals merely for the sake of increasing the number of species on display is counter productive. The Zoo owners and Zoo managers have to respond to the need for conservation of various species of wild animals and contribute to it by way of donating and loaning or giving in exchange of some other species, the single/ unpaired and surplus animals of endangered species for the conservation programmes identified by the Central Zoo Authority.

Central Zoo Authority will take every care that all the Zoos are benefited from the exchange programme.

To achieve this goal, following guidelines are being issued:

Guidelines:

1. The exchange proposals submitted by Zoos will be decided primarily on the basis of the housing and upkeep facilities available at the recipient Zoo and viability of the species population group at the donating Zoo.
2. Single animals, unpaired animals and animals in non-viable groups will be transferred to zoos with appropriate housing and upkeep facilities. Preference has to be given to the zoos in the normal habitat range of the species concerned.
3. While approving exchange programme the past track record of the zoo with regard to success in breeding and infant healthcare and upkeep shall be given proper weight age.
4. Animals of wild origin shall be treated as precious commodity and their

- heterozygosity and genetical variability to an optimum level. Such animals shall not be permitted to stagnate at rescue centres/mini zoos.
5. All animals of endangered species shall be marked or implanted with a microchip and detailed stud book for such animals maintained. When approving the exchange proposal due safeguard shall be taken to prevent breeding the animal from the same lineage.
 6. Random removal of animals from a breeding group/ herd will not be permitted. Preferably only sub-adults shall be removed and allowed for exchange or transfer.
 7. Exchange of animals to zoos outside India, shall be permitted only if it is in over all interest of the conservation of species concerned and also helpful in enriching the population of indigenous species in the country.
 8. Import of exotic animals in non viable numbers shall be avoided. Such imports will be permitted only for planned breeding of species identified by Central Zoo Authority.
 9. Prior to entering into an exchange with a foreign zoo, the antecedents of the foreign zoo and the nature of housing and health care facility available in the zoo shall be verified.
 10. The donating zoo must provide all the details of the animal such as date of birth/ estimated age, feed chart, healthcare measures adopted etc. along with the animal while making transaction with the recipient zoo.

Note:(1) The Member Secretary may issue approval of Central Zoo Authority for exchange proposal involving the wild animal species/individuals not part of the approved Coordinated Conservation Breeding Programme, if satisfying the guidelines. (2) All the exchange proposals of wild animal species/ individuals between Indian Zoos forming part of approved Coordinated Conservation Breeding Programme will be placed in the Technical Committee for approval. (3) All the exchange proposals between Indian and Foreign Zoos will be decided by the Central Zoo Authority as per recommendations made by the Technical Committee. (4) In urgent cases and where the meeting of the Technical Committee or/and Central Zoo Authority is not likely to be held immediately, the Member Secretary may issue the approval of Central Zoo Authority for such exchange proposals which satisfy the guidelines with the approval of the Chairman, Technical Committee and/or Chairman, Central Zoo Authority respectively as the case may be. However, ex-post-facto

approval will be taken from Technical Committee and/or the Central Zoo Authority (as the case may be) will be taken for all such proposals in the next Meeting. (5) Schedule 3 (9) of Rule 10 under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 (Amendment) Rules, 2013 which reads as "Any decision of the Central Zoo Authority about any animal being sent to a particular Zoo for augmenting the number of founder animals for the conservation breeding programme of the species shall be binding on the concerned Zoo." will any means be implemented once issued by the Central Zoo Authority.

Format for exchange of animals

Name of Zoos and Animals to be given

Name of Zoos and Animals to be given				Name of Zoos and Animals to be given				Purpose of Exchange /Remarks
Species to be Given	Present Stock	Number to be Given	Stock with the Recipient Zoo	Species to be Given	Present Stock	Number to be Given	Stock with the Recipient Zoo	
	M:F:U	M:F:U	M:F:U		M:F:U	M:F:U	M:F:U	

PROFORMA FOR EXCHANGE OF ANIMALS BETWEEN ZOOS

Details about species to be given	Details about species to be acquired
A. General	A. General
Name of the species Number of individuals in stock and sex ratio Number of individuals to be given and sex ratio	Name of the species Number of individuals already in stock and sex ratio Number of individuals to be acquired and sex ratio
B. Animal Details	B. Animal Details

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age 2. Specify whether wild origin/ captive bred and generation(F1,F2) 3. Breeding record (whether sired/ given birth) 4. Studbook number (national/ international) 5. Whether marked, then specify (Transponder no./ring/tag etc) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age 2 Specify whether wild origin/ captive bred and generation(F1,F2) 3. Breeding record (whether sired/ given birth) 4. Studbook number (national/ international) 5. Whether marked, then specify (Transponder no./ring/tag etc)
C. Purpose	C. Purpose
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breeding 2. over crowding/surplus 3. single or unpaired 4. other 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breeding/introduce new blood 2. Pairing / Provide mate 3. Forming social group/viable population 4. other
D. Nature of housing	D. Nature of housing
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open air/ Closed (specify area in sq.mtrs) 2. Feeding cells/ kraal (specify dimension in mtrs) and number of cells/kraal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open air/ Closed (specify area in sq.mtrs) 2. Feeding cells/ kraal (specify dimension in mtrs) and number of cells/kraal
E. History of the zoo in:	E. History of the zoo in:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upkeep 2. Breeding 3. Infant care 4. Mortality 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upkeep 2. Breeding 3. Infant care 4. Mortality