



भारत सरकार
केंद्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय



Government of India
CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Date: as per e-sign

कंप्यूटर नंबर /Computer Number: 135034

CIRCULAR

Subject: Precautionary measures to be undertaken in zoos in light of detection of Canine Distemper (CDV) in a rescued palm civet at Zoological Garden, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-regarding.

Madam/ Sir,

It has come to the notice of the Central Zoo Authority that a case of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection has been detected in a rescued palm civet at Zoological Garden, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

2. CDV is a highly contagious viral disease affecting a wide range of carnivores, including felids, and poses a significant risk to captive wildlife populations.
3. In view of the above, all zoos including rescue centres are hereby directed to implement the following precautionary and preventive measures with immediate effect as mentioned in the CZA circular no. 135034, dated 20.03.2026 and 27.03.2026 (copy enclosed).
4. All zoos are advised to **treat this matter with utmost urgency** and **ensure strict compliance** with the above measures to safeguard captive wildlife.
5. Further, assistance may be sought from ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
6. This for your information and necessary action.

Yours sincerely

(Dr. V. Clement Ben/ डॉ. वी. क्लेमेंट बेन)
Member Secretary/ सदस्य सचिव

Distribution:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UT's.
2. The Director/Officer-in-Charge/Curator, (All the recognized zoos of the country)
3. The Director, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar – 243122, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, E-mail: directorivri@gmail.com
4. The Principal Scientist and in-charge, Centre for Wildlife, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar – 243122, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, E-mail: cwlincharge@gmail.com
5. The DPA, O/o CZA – to upload on official website of the CZA.

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CIRCULAR

Subject: Developing site-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for disease surveillance and management in zoos in light of detection of Canine Distemper (CDV) in a leopard cub at Rescue and Rehabilitation Home, Tutikandi, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh – regarding.

Reference: This office Circular Computer no. 135034, dated 20.03.2026

This is with reference to the CZA Circular Computer no. 135034, dated 20.03.2026 regarding the precautionary measures to be undertaken in zoos in light of detection of Canine Distemper (CDV) in a leopard cub at Rescue and Rehabilitation Home, Tutikandi, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (copy enclosed).

2. All zoos including rescue centres are hereby directed to implement the precautionary and preventive measures with immediate effect as circulated vide CZA circular dated 20.03.2026.

3. Further, it is directed to implement standardized precautionary measures and protocols for handling rescued animals and preventing disease transmission with following key measures:

- Quarantine protocols
- Health screening of rescued animals
- Strengthening of biosecurity measures
- Vaccination and antibody screening
- Continuous monitoring and surveillance
- Timely reporting
- Capacity building through training and awareness

4. In view of the above, all zoos including rescue centres are hereby further directed to develop site-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for disease surveillance and management in zoos.

5. All zoos are advised to **treat this matter with utmost urgency** and **ensure strict compliance** with the above measures to safeguard captive wildlife.

6. Further, assistance may be sought from ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
7. This for your information and necessary action.

Yours sincerely

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कंप्यूटर नंबर /Computer Number: 135034

CIRCULAR

Subject: Precautionary measures to be undertaken in zoos in light of detection of Canine Distemper (CDV) in a leopard cub at Rescue and Rehabilitation Home, Tutikandi, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh – regarding.

It has come to the notice of the Central Zoo Authority that a case of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection has been detected in a rescued leopard cub housed at Rescue and Rehabilitation Home, Tutikandi, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

2. CDV is a highly contagious viral disease affecting a wide range of carnivores, including felids, and poses a significant risk to captive wildlife populations.
3. In view of the above, all zoos including rescue centres are hereby directed to implement the following precautionary and preventive measures with immediate effect:

Surveillance and Monitoring

- i. Conduct intensive health surveillance of all susceptible species, especially carnivores (felids, canids, mustelids, etc.).
- ii. Monitor for clinical signs such as nasal discharge, coughing, neurological symptoms, lethargy, and loss of appetite.
- iii. Maintain daily health records and report any suspected cases immediately to the CZA and State Animal Husbandry Department.

Quarantine and Isolation

- iv. Strictly enforce quarantine protocols for all newly acquired or rescued animals for a minimum of 30 days.
- v. Immediately isolate any animal showing symptoms suggestive of CDV.
- vi. Ensure dedicated staff and equipment for quarantined enclosures.

Biosecurity Measures

- vii. Strengthen zoo biosecurity protocols:
 - o Restrict unauthorized entry into animal enclosures and sensitive areas.

- Use footbaths, disinfectants, and PPE for staff and visitors where applicable.
 - Ensure proper sanitation of enclosures, feeding utensils, and water sources.
- viii. Prevent contact between captive animals and stray/domestic animals (especially dogs).

Vaccination and Veterinary Care

- ix. Undertake vaccination of susceptible species in consultation with qualified wildlife veterinarians and ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
- x. Ensure vaccination and health monitoring of domestic animals (especially dogs) in and around zoo premises.
- xi. Seek technical guidance from veterinary institutes such as ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh for disease management protocols.

Sample Collection and Testing

- xii. In case of suspected infection:
- Collect appropriate samples (blood, nasal/ocular swabs) following biosafety guidelines.
 - Send samples to recognized laboratories for confirmation of CDV.
- xiii. Maintain cold chain and proper documentation during sample transport.

Carcass Disposal

- xiv. Dispose of carcasses, if any, strictly as per biohazard protocols to prevent environmental contamination.
- xv. Avoid open disposal; use deep burial or incineration as per guidelines.

Staff Awareness and Training

- xvi. Sensitize zoo staff regarding CDV transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures.
- xvii. Ensure strict compliance with hygiene and disease control protocols.

Reporting and Coordination

- xviii. Any confirmed or suspected cases must be reported immediately to:
- Central Zoo Authority
 - Concerned State Wildlife Authorities
- xix. Maintain coordination with local veterinary and disease surveillance agencies.

Movement Restrictions

- xx. Avoid unnecessary transfer of animals between zoos/rescue centres affected by the CDV until the situation is reviewed.
- xxi. Any essential movement must be preceded by health screening and certification.
4. All zoos are advised to **treat this matter with utmost urgency** and **ensure strict compliance** with the above measures to safeguard captive wildlife.

5. Further, assistance may be sought from ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
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Yours sincerely

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