

MONITORING OF HYGIENE AND INCIDENCE OF BLOOD BORNE DISEASE IN ZOOS*

In the wake of the death of large number of tigers at Nandankanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar in June-July, 2000, instructions were issued vide Reference No. 1 for carrying out measures for improvement of hygiene within the zoo around the animal enclosures and adopting preventive measures for disease control and health care of carnivores, particularly tigers, lions and leopards. The aforesaid instructions have been repeated vide Reference No. 2 & 3 above in subsequent years.

Compliance of aforesaid guidelines as indicated in the circulars referred to above has helped in reduction of the overall mortalities of carnivores in zoos in the country during the last two years.

The measures suggested in the guidelines are:

- i) Improvement of hygiene of the animal enclosures and its surrounding viz removal of weeds and bush cutting to reduce the vector load, cleaning of moats and sewer lines and proper disposal of solid wastes.
- ii) Screening of animals against ecto & endo-parasitic infestation.
- iii) Carrying out blood tests of animals of important species in a planned and systematic manner, without causing undue stress to the animals, with a view to identify incidence of blood borne parasites & take appropriate prophylactic/remedial measures.
- iv) Medicines of essential nature to be procured in reasonable quantities and kept in zoo hospitals to meet emergencies.

*Issued to all Director of Large, Medium, Small and Mini Zoo having lions, tigers and leopards in their collection vide CZA's letter no. 7-12/2000-CZA (N) dated 20-06-2003.