

CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY

Guidelines for upkeep of elephants in zoos

1. Allow the elephant with minimal interference of human being including Mahout/ keepers.
2. Elephant riding by Mahout is not required all the time. Elephant should be allowed to walk on its own.
3. When the zoo is opened to the visitors, the Mahout should not be moving with the elephant.
4. The cleaning of enclosure should be completed before opening the zoo to the visitors.
5. Appropriate cambering should be provided in platform to facilitate easy getting up/ sleeping of elephants.
6. The ground provided for housing elephants should be kuccha made of mud.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Daily walk/ exercise for atleast two hours in the early morning hours should be given to all the elephants.
10. Tree fodder like peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), jamun (*Schizigium cumini*) and neem (*Azardiractha indica*) should be provided along with the branches.
11. 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.
12. Treatment records should be kept as per the proforma provided by the Central Zoo Authority.
13. Faecal samples of the animals should be examined periodically in the laboratory.
14. Screening against infectious and contagious diseases should be made regularly.
15. Birth, death and acquisition report should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority at the end of each financial year with inventory report.
16. 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.
17. The elephants housed in the Zoos should have a microchip implanted, the details should be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority.
18. Enrichment of Elephant Housing facility should be priority of the zoo to provide (Habitat-Forested/Vegetation, Social, Dietary, Water pools/lakes, logs, rock, timber, dry tree, sand and basking). 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).

19. Any other suggestion that may be issued time to time by the Central Zoo Authority.
20. All elephants management practices followed at the zoo should conform to the needs of the elephants and not oriented towards visitors.
21. Using zoo elephants as temples, processions or riding is banned.
22. CZA's guidelines for housing and management of elephants including designs of enclosures humane training & handling methods, enrichment & keepers training review time to time may be strictly followed.
23. No 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) be executed.
24. Elephants should be housed in small groups and not as single animals.