

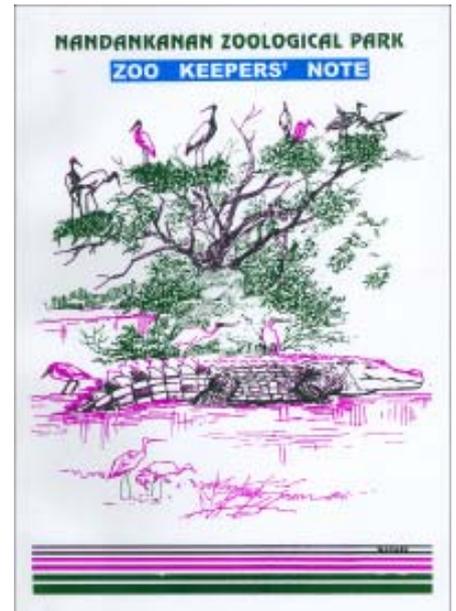
## Zookeeper training manual

The Zoo Keepers' Note was compiled for the CZA sponsored 'Zoo Keepers' Training' organised in Nandankanan Zoo 3-12 February 2004. It has been prepared in English but the materials included are simple and succinct so it could be easily translated. The important issue is that such a nice "manual" could be prepared for the zookeepers, including all manner of important material.

The volume has been printed with an attractive colour illustration on the cover by the Nandankanan artist. The book includes the following topics or sections :

- What is zoo, history and evolution
- Animal exhibit, enclosure design & barriers,
- Minimum prescribed size for feeding or retiring cubicle,

- Feed prescription, nutritional balanced feed & provision to zoo animals; water requirement potable water supply and its role in hygiene of captive animals
- Infection diseases
- Observation of animal behaviour, biological data on Indian felids & wild ruminants
- Guidelines for disposal of carcass of expired animal,
- Isolation & Quarantine. Sanitation
- Zoo emergencies, Enclosure safety, First-Aid
- Restraint of captive animals
- Preparation/shipment of lab specimen for pathological tests
- Provision of Wildlife Protection Act and its relevance in the context of zoo
- Duties of zoo keepers
- Education signage and relevance in zoo education



Additional copies of this book are available for sale from Nandankanan Zoo. Contact Manoj Mahapatra.

## Zoo Emergency

Manoj Mahapatra

Disaster or crisis in a zoo comes in various forms. Feed disruption is quite common but animal escapes occur only occasionally. Sometimes the animal is trapped and returned to its cage without incident, but when escapes lead to a human casualty then disasters follow. Nandankanan Zoo had its share of intermittent crisis. A "super cyclone" and subsequent tiger deaths due to epidemic kept our managers pondering how to tackle such situations in a better way.

In case of the cyclone, the inherent resilience of zoo workers persistently and assiduously put their efforts to bring the Zoo to normal condition, had succeeded to a greater extent. The scar of the super cyclone is almost invisible after two years since its occurrence. No tiger had died as a result of disease, until the epidemic in the year 2000, so we were unprepared. While in discussion with officials of Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority, I learnt that Nandankanan is geographically situated at a place, which is prone to all 3 major natural disasters namely cyclone, floods and earthquake. It was then felt necessary to equip the staff for any eventuality and upgrade mechanized support and infrastructure inside the Zoo to reduce the response time. The training on Emergency

preparedness, mitigation and development of a "crack team" has been and is an attempt to keep all of us at Nandankanan Zoo aware of impending danger and how to face it at the time of crisis. It is said, "Wise people learn from others' experience and fools never learn". The workers from Nandankanan have learnt a lot from their own experience.

### Natural & Man-made disasters

The crises in a zoo could occur due to a natural disaster like a cyclone, epidemics, flood, earth quake etc. or due to an accident by visitor, by zoo staff or by miscreants killing an animal escapes or inter specific confrontation among animals, turning of a captive animal into a rogue etc.

Disaster management is primarily meant for educating the field staff, supervisors, and officers of their responsibilities while engaging in restoration, capture and salvage works as well as prevention of man-made disasters.

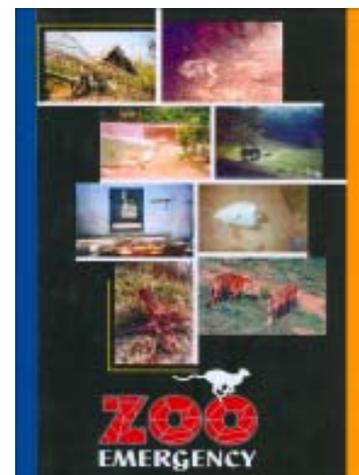
The possible nature of zoo emergency can be classified in the following manner which is only indicative but not exhaustive.

### Natural disasters

Natural: cyclone, flood, heat stroke, epidemic, snake bite, rabid dog bite, monkey bite, elephant depredation,

### Man Made disasters

Human depredation, lapses in maintenance, over confidence of staff, breach of safety rule, ignorance of rule, culling by miscreants, boundary wall collapse, electrocution, fire incidence. wrongful feeding, failure food supply, failure of water supply, failure of power supply, fire, agitation by staff & public, public bundh.



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