

7 Letter No. WL1-837/2007 dtd. 28.04.07 of the CCF (WL)

No.WL1- 837 /2007.

Office of the Chief Conservator
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Dated: 28/04/2007.

From

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, KeralaThiruvananthapuram.

To

All Divisional Forest Officers
All Wildlife Wardens
All Assistant Conservator of Forests

Sir,

Sub: Captive Elephant Management Rules – Engaging of Elephants for Festivals –
Instructions– Issued - reg:

Ref: ...

It has come to the notice of Government that the cruelty to captive elephants resulting in fatal mishaps in public places increasing on an alarming which has become a threat to the public life, several such reports are appearing in the news papers daily. To avoid such a situation, the following instructions are strictly enforced while using the elephants during festival seasons.

1. A minimum standing space of the dimension 4 m x 3 m with a distance of 1.5 m between the animals from belly to belly and 4 m from head to head or head to tail shall be prescribed during festivals to avoid accidental direct body contact leading injuries and fear.
2. High-sounding crackers should not be used at least 50 meters from the elephants.
3. During nighttime, lighting from a generator shall be provided to avoid any havoc due to failure of general power supply.
4. During transportation by vehicle in the day time a covering shall be provided to guard from sun and rain.
5. The speed of the vehicle shall not exceed 40 km/hr at any point of time.
6. Elephants shall be given atleast 12 hours of rest every day, which can include time given for bathing and feeding.
7. After every 3 hrs of work elephant shall be given water and after every 5 hours they shall be given, rest for 2 hours, water and feed including the concentrate ration. In any case this should exceed 6 hours.

8. Elephants shall not be used for logging for more than 8 hours in a day.
9. There shall be facility to keep the elephants with sufficient floor space and shade at each festival location. If necessary, the organizers shall erect thatched sheds for this.
10. A human volunteer fencing shall be provided around the group of elephants attending the festival during processions and show to avoid teasing by the public.
11. While inspecting the premises by a Range Officer prior to festival he shall make sure that arrangements are there for sufficient space, water, fodder, shade, distance to the location of fire work and that the festival organizers have arranged elephant squad for inspecting and veterinary care including tranquilization facilities to the elephants if the number of elephants to be used are more than 3. He shall obtain an undertaking from the organizers that they will observe all the regulations stipulated in the various Acts, Rules and directions during the time the entire period of the festival. A schedule of time of the various activities involving elephants may also be attached to the undertaking.
12. The Veterinarian issuing the health certificate shall verify and record the correctness of all the registers stipulated in the 2003 rules, ownership and microchip certificate in the health certificate.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd/-)

Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala