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PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) & CHIEF
WILDLIFE WARDEN, KERALA.



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Sub: Precautionary measures to be taken to prevent "Foot and Mouth Disease" in free ranging and captive wild animals from current outbreak in domesticated animals- Regarding:

The State is witnessing an outbreak of "Foot and Mouth Disease" causing huge casualties among cattle population. The disease poses a real threat to wild animals also. In the circumstances we have to take precautionary steps for preventing the spread of disease to wild animals. Guidelines stipulating the measures are issued as under for immediate compliance.

Guidelines for Free Ranging Wildlife

1. All the check post staff should monitor the trans-boundary movement of cattle and inspect animals for any signs of FMD.
2. Unvaccinated cattle in and around PA should be identified and actions may be taken to vaccinate them.
3. All the field staff should monitor any abnormal lameness in even footed animals like Deer, Gaur etc.
4. All the kills by major predators should be monitored and incidence of disease should be reported as soon as possible since the chance of predation would be high in affected lame animals.
5. Mortality of wild animals should be reported as soon as the carcass sighted and weekly report of mortality should be submitted to respective Wildlife Wardens. Any increase in mortality of herbivores should be reported and carefully monitored.
6. All the slaughter houses in and around the PA should be closed and any waste disposal in and around the PA should be banned.
7. Trekking for tourists may be stopped/ regulated till the outbreak is over.

8. As far as possible, foot bath (trough for dipping the foot and vehicles wheel with 4% Sodium carbonate solution-soda ash) should be provided in every entry points for tourists/visitors and maintain the trough periodically by changing the dip solution.
9. Proper disinfection of all the vehicles should be carried out in regular basis, which were operating inside the PA(citric acid 3 % solution can be used).
10. Officers of the Animal husbandry department should be regularly contacted to analyze the spillover possibility to wild animals.

Guidelines for Captive Stock (Rescue Centres and Deer Parks)

1. Avoid /regulate the visitors inflow to the parks till the outbreak is over.
2. Avoid any type of contact of animals with visitors.
3. Foot bath (trough for dipping the foot and vehicles wheel with 4% Sodium carbonate solution-soda ash) should be provided in every entry points for tourists/visitors and maintain the trough periodically by changing the dip solution.
4. Strict disinfection of all the vehicles (citric acid 3 % solution can be used)-especially fodder supplying vehicles.
5. Make sure that the fodders were collected from FMD free areas.
6. All the staff should not use their regular clothes inside the park and uniforms and foot wears should only be used inside the park. Regular disinfection of uniforms and foot wears should be carried out.
7. Local veterinary officers/local bodies should be contacted on regular basis to assess the risk of spill over possibilities of FMD from the cattle.



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

To

All DFOs / Wildlife Wardens
All CCFs (Territorial & Wildlife)/All Regional Addl. PCCFs.