

Animal welfare body wants action against zoo

Peeved over the death of two spotted deers in a Chhattisgarh zoo after being harassed by visitors, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has sought strict action against the zoo authorities.

In a letter sent to the Central Zoo Authority June 25, PETA India expressed shock about 'a recent incident in which two teenagers tortured a group of spotted deers at Bhilai Steel Plant-run zoo, leaving two of the animals dead'.

The incident took place last week at Chhattisgarh's industrial city Bhilai, about 30 km west of state capital Raipur.

The police arrested both the teenagers but the incident caused strong resentment among wildlife lovers across the state.

The PETA letter sent to the member secretary, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, by Anuradha Sawhney, PETA India's chief functionary urged the authority to 'investigate the deer deaths and take strict action against Bhilai zoo authorities if they are found negligent'.

'We also request to issue a letter to all zoos across the country not to allow visitors to harass animals. Not only is this harassment in violation of zoo rules but poses a threat to the visitors and the helpless animals,' the letter said.

Citing the death of deers at Bhilai zoo, the PETA letter said: 'This is not an isolated incident, visitors are harassing zoo animals across the country.'

The letter adds: 'Even though the recognition of zoo rules mandate that each enclosure must have a stand-off barrier, PETA investigations have revealed that these stand-off barriers are either non-existent, inadequate or are easily breached by visitors due to non enforcement.'

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