

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife &
Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat State,
Aranya Bhavan, B - Wing, 1st floor,
Sector-10-A, Gandhinagar – 382 010
E- mail: cwlwguj@gmail.com**

CIRCULAR

No. WLP/25/B/ 3601 /2017-18

Date: 26/07/2017

Sub: Vaccination of cattle and canine population in and around
Protected Areas of State (Focus on Asiatic Lion).

❖ **Preamble:**

Conservation efforts of Asiatic Lion in the State has resulted in population increase, spill over population, coming in contact with human habitation and domestic cattle population (both for habitat sharing and food), present in the Sanctuary and outside Sanctuary, provide higher vulnerability of disease infections and danger thereof. The Asiatic Lion is a known social animal. The contact with cattle **enhances** the chance of transmission of diseases of the cattle to Asiatic Lion and to its other herbivore prey base.

Wildlife habitat is an ecosystem, with various food chains, in which depending upon the size, habit, vegetation, different class, size and nature of animals, a network is formed where, these are interconnected through food/ prey-predator relationship. Hence, these **interconnections**, make the population **vulnerable** where, disease and infection gets transmitted from prey to predator, within species, across the species, from domestic animals to wild animals.

Disease monitoring control and health care, is an important component of wildlife management. At present Gujarat state is the only habitat for Asiatic Lion, in the world, this aspect becomes all the more important. While veterinary interventions for addressing the disease affecting wild animals, is key management approach, by providing dedicated **animal care and treatment facilities**, highly important is **prevention and control measures** for various **diseases** to Asiatic Lion and other fauna is vulnerable.

In the above perspective, it is necessary to institute suitable and comprehensive **disease prevention measures** to ensure protection of Asiatic Lion population and other herbivore fauna, from diseases carried by cattle and canine population of the area. Immunisation is key strategy for disease prevention and control. It is necessary to **immunise the cattle and stray canine** population in the Lion Landscape area to ensure protection of Asiatic Lion population from diseases carried by cattle and canine population of the area.

The immunisation of cattle population is primarily mandate of Animal Husbandry Department. However, in Asiatic Lion landscape, it is highly desirable, that Forest Department takes **protective steps and ensure vaccination of cattle** to safeguard the Asiatic Lions from potential of transmission of disease from cattle.

