

national level. Apart from the reduction in food and nesting sites there could also be some other factors which might have had a effect on the population of house sparrow like automobiles pollution which have had a residual effect on the eggs of sparrows making them thin shelled, higher noise pollution also caused a disturbance to them, pollution caused by microwave towers, replacement of native plants by exotic varieties etc.

The most encouraging thing is one that we can still find them in some rural areas and in some urban belts where the environmental conditions are still meeting their basic requirements. Therefore the attitude of people towards conservation has to be changed who considered that only few animals like tigers, elephants etc need to be conserved. Those people should be aware about the importance of house sparrows and their conservation by wildlife act of India. In order to conserve this species a lot of research work should also be done in India because there is very little research done on the common birds.

As currently there is no National House Sparrow Action plan to conserve house sparrow and little survey information is available therefore the following things should be done on the priority bases-

- With the help of field surveys the knowledge about its distribution and population should be gathered
- Investigate about its habitat, ecology, food and feeding patterns especially during its nesting season.
- Conservation based awareness programmes, projects, seminars, workshops, training courses should be done.
- Data and information related to house sparrow should be documented in various forms: survey forms, on internet, in printed form (books, newspapers) etc.
- So we need to apply more innovative and conservation strategies for our house sparrows. Therefore, by adopting these initiatives we can easily bring back the house sparrows in our lives. So that our future generation can also enjoy the pleasure of watching these small and chirping guests in our homes.

## Report on Rescue, Treatment and Release of Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

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A Common leopard (*Panthera pardus*) aged about 2 yrs was found lying on the ground in the forest area of Teesta Valley Range, Darjeeling on 17.03.2012 by the patrolling team of Wildlife Division I, Forest Department, Darjeeling. The animal was found injured in the head region and it was immediately rescued and brought to the Veterinary hospital of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park around 1:30 p.m.

During examination the animal had multiple head injury and the animal seemed blind. The body temperature of the animal recorded was 37.7°C after which it was kept in the in-patient ward followed by treatment with the following antibiotics:

1. Inj. Tazo 1 gm (Im/ly)
2. Inj. Melonex 3 ml (Im/ly)
3. Inj. Curadex 2 ml (Im/ly)
4. Inj. Trineurosol H 5 ml (Im/ly)

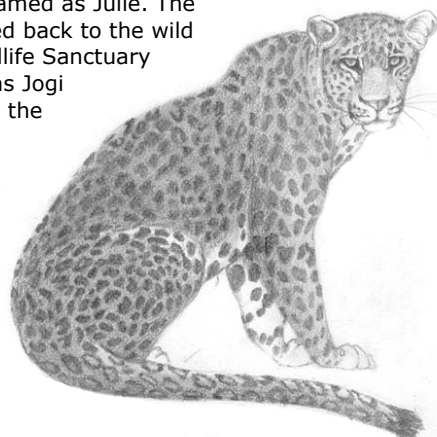
The external wounds was washed and treated with Betadin and Neosporin powder. The animal was fed with ½ kg of chicken in the evening

On observation the next day the animal had taken its feed. The same line of treatment was continued for five days (18.03.2012-21.03.2012) during which the animal recovered well including its wounds was seen healing up. No feed rejection was observed except on 18.03.2012 where it was seen that the animal had rejected 100 gms of chicken out of 1 kg. Further the animal was observed to be taking its feed well and was behaviourally sound. The most important observation was that the animal's eyesight showed marked improved.

On 24.03.2012, 2 Tab Neurobion was given which was continued for a week followed with 10 ml of Vimerol for six days. On 12.04.2012 the animal was also vaccinated with

1ml Felovac PCT 1 ml (Im/ly). The animal was kept in the park for a period of one month.

The animal was tranquilised for shifting in the animal enclosure after the quarantine period got over; 3 ml of ketamil (Im/ly) and 1 ml of Xylazine (Im/ly) was used to sedate the animal at 2:45 p.m. After complete sedation at 2:55 p.m. 5 ml of blood was drawn out for further examination. Immediately after shifting the animal to its enclosure 1 ml of Reversine (Iv/ly) was administered to the animal. Animal regained consciousness at 3:15 p.m. The animal was led out in the enclosure every morning following different forms of enrichment. The animal was playful and ate its feed well, however on the morning of 28.04.2012 one of its keeper noticed Leechs inside the animal's nose on both its side. The animal was physically restrained and a total of fourteen leeches were taken out in an hour. The leeches were later identified as *Hirudinaria* sp. The animal was kept in the zoo premises for a period of 5 months and was named as Julie. The animal was released back to the wild at Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in an area known as Jogi Jhora 10 km inside the National Park.



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