



**BY COURIER**

Ref: PILAP/HO/2020/349

July 09, 2020

**Government of Punjab  
Through the Public Information Officer,  
Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department  
38-Ponch House, Multan Road, Near Chuburji  
Lahore**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2017  
AND THE PUNJAB TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2013**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP) is a public interest association registered under the laws of Pakistan and is concerned with addressing issues of public interest in accordance to the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It respectfully submits as under: -

1. That the details of the authorized person on behalf of PILAP are as under:
2. That attention is drawn to an article published in Dawn on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, titled "Concerns Pour in After Private Zoo Bear's Video in Lahore Goes Viral", attached herewith for ease of reference. The video mentioned in the article is that of a Black Bear at the Bahria Orchard Zoo in Lahore. The Bear exhibits signs of Zoochosis, a phenomena used to describe repetitive behavior patterns amongst animals kept in enclosed spaces. It is a clear sign of stress in animals in captivity and an indicator of their wellbeing.
3. That the inhumane treatment of animals is not only a breach of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890, but also an infringement of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which provides for principles of tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam—which strictly condones cruelty towards all life forms, to be fully observed. Furthermore, the Honourable Islamabad High Court in its

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Plot # 18-C, 2nd Floor, Office # 202, Zamzama Lane # 2, Phase-5, DHA, Karachi.  
Phone: +9221 32417049, +9221 32417087, +9221-35304110 Email: info@pilap.pk



4. recent judgment in Writ Petition No. 1155 of 2019 has pronounced that the humane treatment of animals is a Fundamental Right granted under Article 9 of the Constitution.
5. That, in view of the above, PILAP respectfully submits this Application under the right granted to all citizens of Pakistan under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 and the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013 as under:
  - i) What measures have been taken by the Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department to ensure that the Black Bear and other animals at the Bahria Orchard Zoo, Lahore are humanely treated, including having sufficient enclosure space that meet international standards for zoo animals; company of similar species with which to interact; activities to keep them occupied and not falling into a state of Zoochosis?
  - ii) What measures have been taken by the Department to ensure the above treatment is also meted out to all zoo animals located in Punjab Province?
  - iii) Whether a Management Committee has been formed for the Bahria Orchard Zoo, Lahore as prescribed by the Punjab Zoo and Safari Park Rules, 2012, and if so, what is its mechanism for monitoring the efficient upkeep of the zoo animals to ensure their welfare in line with principles of humane treatment of animals under the law and international standards?
6. That in the circumstances, PILAP would be grateful for a reply at the earliest.

Thank you.

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