

## Human Animal Conflict - Leopard Castration Issue

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- In late 2016, two leopards, suspected of being man-eaters were captured in Sariska National Park and transferred to Jaipur zoo.

\n

- At the Jaipur zoo, both the leopards were castrated.

\n

- Then in early February, 2017, they both were released back to their habitat.

\n

\n\n

### Why this action is perplexing?

\n\n

\n

- Because, there is **hardly any study that associates the sexual drive of Leopards with their man-eating tendencies.**

\n

- Studies also warn of the dangers of releasing predators after captivity since the animals have lived through a period of stress.

\n

- Still, ignoring all the studies, the two Leopards were released just three months after they were captured.

\n

- In a cage, not only the leopard doesn't need to hunt for food but also it comes into contact with people who feed it.

\n

- Researchers say that, if a predator is planned to be released later, then keeping it in captivity with frequent contact with humans is wrong.

\n

\n\n

### What is the response from the authorities?

\n\n

\n

- Rajasthan's wildlife warden has refuted the reports that said Rajasthan's forest minister directed the rehabilitation of the leopards.

\n

- The deputy director of the Sariska said that he had recommended that the man-eaters should be kept in a zoo and decided later about how they should be released.

\n

- Man-animal conflicts have increased all over the country and there are lot of research on the behaviour of big cats available for study but the **park managers are either unaware of these studies** or are constrained by other reasons to not pay heed to them.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n

