

AP first to implement painless castration for cattle

OUR BUREAU

HYDERABAD, JULY 23:

In a first, Andhra Pradesh Government will ease the pain of cattle that have to go under the knife for castration.

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry has issued a directive making it mandatory for veterinarians to administer anaesthetics to cattle that have to go in for castration. At present, a castrator or 'crushing' method, which are painful procedures are performed.

Failure to do this would be a punishable offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Andhra Pradesh is the first to follow the mandate set by the Animal Welfare Board of India, which issued the advisory to all State animal husbandry departments in April 2012.

The board acted after meeting with veterinary experts from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and reviewing PETA's report on the pain and stress endured by bulls.

The new guidelines require veterinarians to use drugs to reduce or even eliminate fear and pain during castration.

These humane procedure options are available to farmers for a nominal one-time fee.somasekhar.m@thehindu.co.in

(This article was published on July 23, 2013)

Keywords: [anaesthetics](#), [cattle](#), [castration](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#)