

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING,**  
**(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)**

**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 20th March, 2023

**G.S.R. 208(E).**—Whereas the draft of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animal Husbandry Practices and Procedures) Rules, 2021 were published as required under the sub-section (1) of section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) , vide Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying notification number G.S.R 12(E) dated 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 and whereas objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby were invited before the expiry of sixty days from the date on which the copies of gazette containing the said notification have been made available to the public;

And whereas copies of the said Gazette were made available to the public on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021;

And whereas the objections or suggestions received from the public have been incorporated in the rules.

Now, therefore, in the exercise of the power conferred by the section 38 read with section (3) and Section 11(3) (a) and (c) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) and in pursuance of order issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, Writ Petition (Civil) 5266/2020 & CM Appeals no. 18967/2020, 22670/2020 and 31358/2020 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

- 1. Short title, extent and commencement.** — (1) These rules may be called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animal Husbandry Practices and Procedures) Rules, 2023. )  
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their final publication in the Official Gazette.
- 2. Definitions.**— (1) In these rules unless the context otherwise requires,-
  - (a) "**Act**" means the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960);
  - (b) "**analgesic**" means such drugs that selectively relieve pain by acting on the central nervous system or on peripheral pain mechanisms, mostly not removing the sensations of touch, pressure or tension or stretching; meaning such animal may still feel discomfort and the term analgesia shall be construed accordingly;
  - (c) "**barbiturate**" means a scheduled drug which acts on the central nervous system and produces general anaesthesia;
  - (d) "**blind folding**" means a method of reducing reactivity by covering the eyes with a cloth, bandage, or the like used for improving the welfare of an animal by reducing levels of fear and distress through the elimination of the human proximity and handler visibility;
  - (e) "**Calf**" means a bovine animal under the age of six months;
  - (f) "**Council**" means the Veterinary Council of India established under the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984);
  - (g) "**dehorning**" means removal of the horn of an animal;
  - (h) "**disbudding**" means the destruction of horn producing cells on the horn bud of an animal;

- (i) “ **euthanasia**” means a ‘good death’ which emphasizes that an animal should be unconscious and insensitive to pain, distress and suffering prior to the cessation of vital signs, including cardiac and respiratory arrest ultimately, the loss of brain function.
- (j) “**face halter**” means a strap or rope used to handle and control animals which fits behind the ears or behind the poll and around the muzzle;
- (k) “**general anaesthetic**” means such drugs when administered systemically causes reversible loss of all sensation including pain, touch, pressure and tension, loss of consciousness, causes immobility and muscle relaxation and the abolition of reflexes and the term general anaesthesia shall be construed accordingly;
- (l) “**Halsted’s principles**” means the basic principles of surgical technique and include gentle handling of tissue; meticulous stoppage of bleedings, preservation of blood supply, strict asepsis, minimum tension on tissues, accurate tissue apposition and obliteration of dead spaces;
- (m) “**intravenous**” means injection or infusion of liquid drugs directly into the vein;
- (n) “**local anaesthetic**” means any such drugs which upon topical application or local injection cause reversible loss of sensory perception, especially of pain in a restricted area of the body and the term local anaesthesia shall be construed accordingly;
- (o) “**minor veterinary services**” means the rendering of preliminary veterinary aid, like, vaccination, castration, and dressing of wounds, and such other types of preliminary aid or the treatment of such ailments as are notified by the State Government, by a person holding a diploma or certificate of veterinary supervisor, stockman or stock assistant under the supervision and direction of a Registered Veterinary Practitioner, as provided in section 30 of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984);
- (p) “**owner**” means the owner of an animal and includes any other person in possession or custody of such animal whether with or without the consent of the owner;
- (q) “**polled cattle**” means an animal of a normally horned breed or species that do not grow horns due to selective breeding;
- (r) “**pre-emptive analgesia**” means a treatment that is initiated before a painful procedure in order to prevent the establishment of central sensitization during the procedure and in the early postoperative period;
- (s) “**prescribed manner**” means a mandatory course of action or steps that need to be followed in a procedure and to be undertaken by a veterinarian or done under his supervision as provided in these rules;
- (t) “**prohibited practices**” means practices that are harmful to animals and that cause unnecessary pain or suffering to animals or practices carried out in violation of these rules;
- (u) “**sedative**” means any such drugs which upon systemic administration results in calming the animal, makes the animal less sensitive to external stimuli such as noise, and reduces fear in unfamiliar situations, but has little or no analgesic effect and the term ‘sedation’ shall be construed accordingly;
- (v) “**State Board**” means the State Animal Welfare Board;
- (w) “**State Veterinary Council**” means a Veterinary Council established under section 32, and includes a Joint State Veterinary Council established in accordance with an agreement under section 33 of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984);
- (x) “**Veterinary Inspector**” means a Registered Veterinary Practitioner appointed by the Animal Welfare Board of India, or the State Animal Welfare Board, or the Veterinary Council of India, or State Veterinary Council or State Animal Husbandry Departments;
- (y) “**Registered Veterinary Practitioner**” means a person whose name is, for the time being, duly registered in a register of any State Veterinary Council established under the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984);

### 3. Animal husbandry procedures.-

- (1) The procedure of dehorning of cattle, and of the castration or branding or nose roping of any animal shall be done only by a registered veterinary practitioner:

Provided that under section 30 of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984, the State Government shall notify for persons holding a diploma or certificate of veterinary supervisor, stockmen or stock assistant for performing a minor veterinary procedure under the close supervision or direction of a registered veterinary practitioner.

- (2) The following is the procedure in respect of Animal Husbandry, namely:-

- (i) castration;

- (ii) dehorning or disbudding;
- (iii) branding; and
- (iv) nose-roping.

**4. Manner for castration:** - (1) The castration of an animal shall be performed at early age as possible using anaesthesia and analgesia under the recommendation or supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner and where practical, the animal shall be castrated before the optimal age, i.e. in case of bovine animals three to six months, sheep and goat eight to twelve weeks of age (preferably older than three months), equine six to twelve months, piglet four to fourteen days and dog six to nine months of age, or at the first available handling opportunity beyond this age using the method available that causes least pain or suffering to the animal.

(2) the castration of an animal shall be done in the following manner, namely:-

- (a) the animal shall be blind folded and humanely handled before and during the procedure;
- (b) general and local anaesthetics shall be given to animals prior to castration, irrespective of the method used;
- (c) during anaesthesia, animal shall be placed on a soft ground on lateral recumbency with the head elevated;
- (d) castration through surgical method shall ensure Halsted's principles and castration through physical method using Burdizzo clamp to ensure strict asepsis; and
- (e) post-procedural analgesics shall be given to animals under the recommendation or close supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner.

**5. Manner for dehorning and disbudding:** - the dehorning and disbudding of an animal shall be done in the following manner, namely:-

- (a) the animal shall be blind folded and humanely handled before and during the procedure;
- (b) administration of sedatives, analgesics and local anaesthesia shall be provided to animals under the recommendation and supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner.;
- (c) post-procedural analgesics shall be given to animals under the recommendation and close supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner.;
- (d) wherever selection and breeding of polled (naturally hornless) cattle is preferred as a policy, dehorning and disbudding shall be discouraged; and
- (e) "the animal shall be given post-operative care to provide sterile wound healing conditions."

**6. Manner for branding:-** the branding of an animal shall be done in the following manner, namely:-

- (a) alternative identification methods such as ear-tagging, ear-notching, tattooing and use of radio frequency identification devices shall be preferred for the identification of an animal;
- (b) hot branding shall only be carried on dead tissues such as hoof in the case of horses or horn in the case of cattle;
- (c) the depth of branding shall not exceed third or fourth of the thickness of the dead tissue of the horn or hoof;
- (d) the animal shall be blind folded and humanely handled before and during the procedure;
- (e) sedatives and pre-emptive analgesics shall be administered to animals under the recommendation or supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner; and
- (f) post-procedural analgesics shall be administered to animals under the recommendation or close supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner.

**7. Manner for nose-roping:-** The nose roping shall be done in the following manner, namely:-

- (a) Nose roping of an animal shall be permissible only as a last resort after exhausting methods to handle and restrain the animal by the use of face halter, blind folding, and by adopting humane behavioral methods including offering treats such as molasses, groundnut cake and green grass, as well as verbal and physical cues such as calmly talking to and gently stroking the animal;
- (b) sedative and pre-emptive analgesics shall be given before piercing the nasal septum;
- (c) a sterile instrument for piercing the nasal septum shall be used under the recommendation and supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner;

- (d) ropes made of natural fibre and smooth or non-abrasive material shall be used for nose-roping; and
- (e) post-procedural analgesics shall be administered to the animal under the recommendation or close supervision of a veterinary practitioner.

**8. Manner for Euthanasia of animals.**-(1)The Euthanasia of an animal shall be carried out under the following circumstances, namely:-

- (a) when the Central Government or the State Government who finds any animal which is so diseased that, it can spread the disease, in order to control such disease; and
- (b) if the registered veterinary practitioner certifies that the animal is mortally injured or so severely injured or in such a physical condition that it,shall be cruel to keep it alive.

(2) 'The euthanasia shall be performed with the consent of the owner of the animals or custodian of the animals in writing.

(3) The euthanasia shall be performed in a method where minimum handling and movement of the animal is required and by following any of the procedures laid down by the World Animal Health Organisation or by the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals for humane killing of an animal under the supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner;

(4) Euthanasia shall be done in the following manner, namely:-

- (a) the animal shall be blindfolded, the handling and control of animal shall be humane, aimed at minimising fear, pain and distress;
- (b) animals to be euthanised shall be given sedative if found to be anxious or in a state of fear or if there are concerns over the safety of the animal or the handler under the supervision of a veterinarian;
- (c) no animal shall be euthanised in the presence of another live animal;
- (d) the animal shall be given an overdose of anaesthetic to cause rapid anaesthesia and irreversible unconsciousness, and followed by respiratory depression, hypoxia and cardiac arrest; and
- (e) The registered veterinary practitioner shall not leave the premises until it is certain that the animal is dead.

**9. Prohibited practices that are cruel and harmful.** – The following activities shall be considered as cruel activities for the purposes of these rules, namely:-

- (a) inserting more than one rope through the nose;
- (b) use of unnatural, abrasive or sharp materials such as nylon, plastic and others for nose roping;
- (c) elastration (banding the body part using rubber rings; on the scrotum for castration and on tail for docking) in adult cattle;
- (d) induced cryptorchidism (to prevent descend of testicles);
- (e) Minor veterinary services carried out without the supervision and direction of a Registered Veterinary Practitioner;
- (f) any other invasive veterinary procedure which are not listed under these rules and are carried out without anaesthesia by someone other than a Registered Veterinary Practitioner; and
- (g) Freeze branding (cold branding) and hot branding on live tissues.

**10. Penalty for Contravention of rules.** - Contravention of any of the provisions of these rules shall be punishable offence and shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Act.

[F. No. V-11011/18/3/2019-(SR)]

Dr. O.P. CHAUDHARY, Jt. Secy.