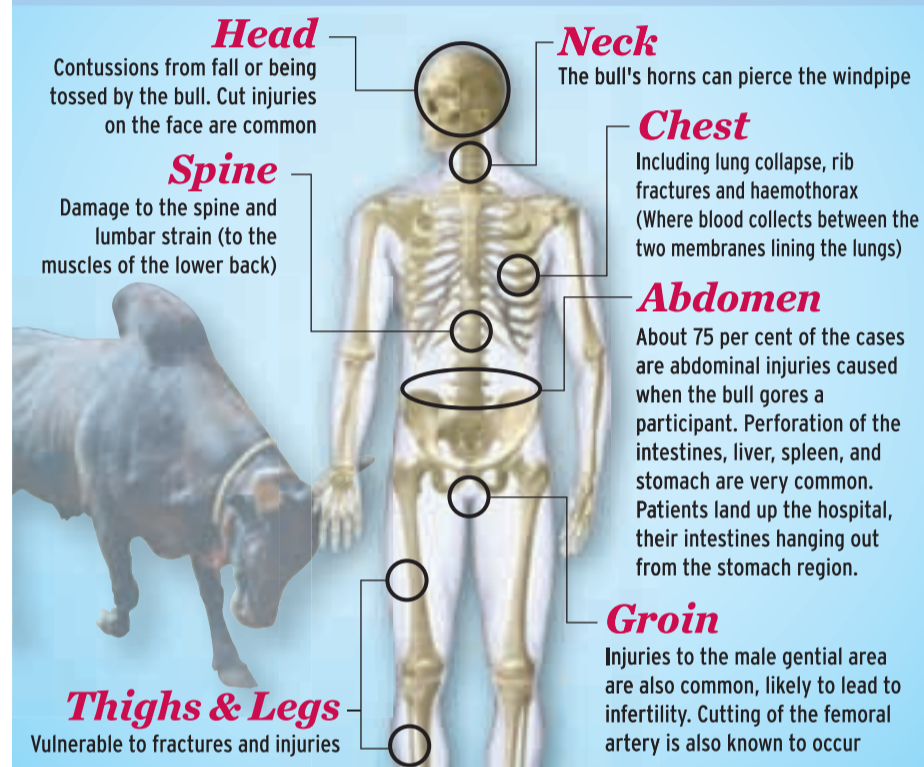


MAN VERSUS BULL

Bull fighting can prove to be fatal or disabling for both bull and man. Deaths have occurred in the past, and injuries, minor and major, occur inevitably in large numbers. Every year, during and after Jallikattu, the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai sees 80 to 100 cases of minor and major injuries, while the local primary health centres at Avaniapuram and Palamedu also treat minor injuries.



THE COURT AND THE SPORT - A TIMELINE

- March 2006** - Single judge of Madurai Bench of the High Court bans jallikattu and bullock-cart race
- March 2007** - Division Bench sets aside judgement, suggests regulatory measures
- January 2008** - Supreme Court allows event with conditions
- July 2009** - Assembly enacts law to regulate jallikattu
- November 2010** - Supreme Court allows jallikattu for five months from January 15
- March 2011** - Fresh guidelines by Court including raising height of barricade
- April 2011** - People For Ethical Treatment of Animals challenges jallikattu law in Supreme Court
- July 2011** - Union Environment and Forests Ministry issues notification prohibiting use of bulls as performing animals
- January 2012** - On writ petition challenging the notification, Madurai Bench permits jallikattu in eight places in Madurai, Sivaganga and Tiruchi districts between January 15 and 29

TAMING A WILD SPORT THROUGH THE LAW

Salient features of the Tamil Nadu Jallikattu Regulation Act

- Event needs prior written permission from District Collector
- It can be held only between January and May
- Arena should be double-barricaded to avoid injuries to spectators, bystanders
- Strong gallery should be erected for spectators
- Bulls should be tested by Animal Husbandry officials to rule out use of performance-enhancing drugs
- Bull tamers should be enrolled, medically examined and wear identifiable dress
- Rs two lakh deposit with Collector for victims' benefit in the event of accident
- Animal Welfare Board representatives should be present during the event
- Entire event should be videographed
- One year prison term or fine up to Rs 10,000 for contravening Act