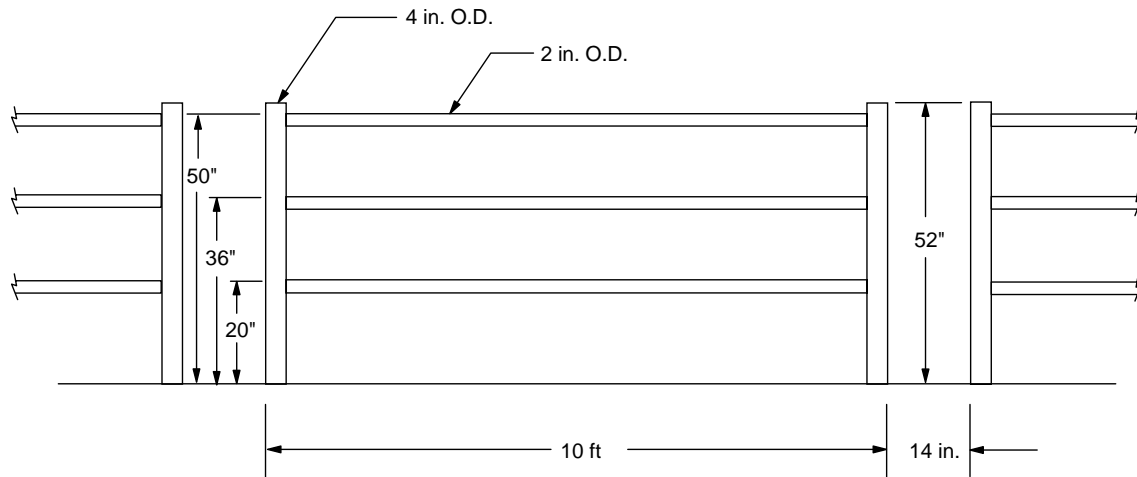


A few notes on
Bull Handling
By
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Transport Alleys

Dual lanes, each with a width of five feet. One lane provides escape from animal. The partition between the two alleys has a man pass every 10 feet. The man pass is at least 14 inches wide, but can be no wider than 18 inches (a Jersey bull can get a head a shoulder, and then whole body through a pass if it is too wide). Vertical supports are galvanized pipes with a 4 inch outside diameter and height between 48 to 52 inches. Horizontal bars are galvanized pipes with a 2-inch outside diameter. Distance from the floor to the top of these 3 bars is near 20, 36, and 50 inches. The 50-inch height is important because it is high enough to keep bulls from easily jumping over, but low enough that individuals on the opposite side of the partition can still handle a bull. The approximately 18 inches of clearance below the bottom bar is enough to enable a person to roll under the bar if the need arises.



Moving Animals

To move an individual animal from their pen or tie stall to the collection and/or treatment areas requires at least two people (i.e., no one individual is allowed to move an animal). A 12 foot nylon rope (not cotton or plastic) with a knot on one end and snap hook on the other is used. The snap hook is latched onto the nose ring of the animal. One person then leads the animal, by maintaining a distance from the animal that is equal to the full length of the rope. This is facilitated by the knot in the end of the rope, which ensures a good grip without having to wrap the rope around the hand (a move that not only shortens the lead distance, but may also enable a bull to drag the lead person). The 12 foot length of the rope ensures that the person leading the bull is always closer to a man pass than to the bull. The leader keeps a slight tension in the rope – much like someone who is fishing maintains slight tension in a fishing line. The second person trails the bull. If for some reason, the bull gets the lead person down, the trail person acts like a rodeo clown in distracting the animal.

For more aggressive bulls, or when a bull gets aggressive during movement, the lead person will stay on the opposite side of the partition as the bull. When the lead person is on the opposite side of the partition as the bull, bull movement can be quickly restrained by wrapping the rope around the top horizontal bar.

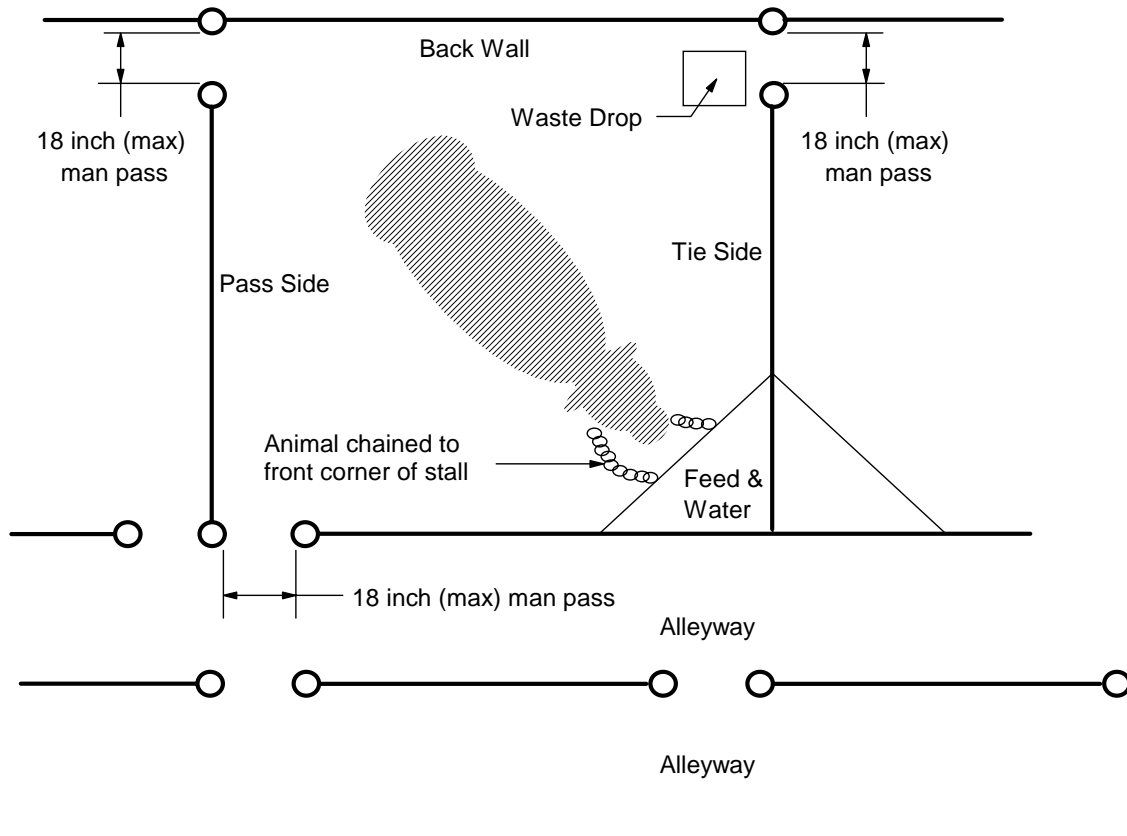
Note that alleys are not designed like chutes. If they so desire, an animal can turn around in a 5 foot alley, although it is not all that easy.

Surfaces

Pen and collection areas have rubber mats. All other areas are broom finished concrete. Animals hoofs are trimmed every 3 to 4 months, from 10 months until mature.

Pens/Box Stalls

Animals are chained to the corner of the box stall with approximately 3 to 4 foot neck chains. Dimensions of the stall and neck chains are such that if an individual stays near the back wall and “pass side” of the stall, the animal can’t reach the individual with his head. Stalls are entered frequently for cleaning. Cleaning is accomplished with the use of a long-handled shovel. Manure is hand scraped to a drop located somewhere along the rear wall.



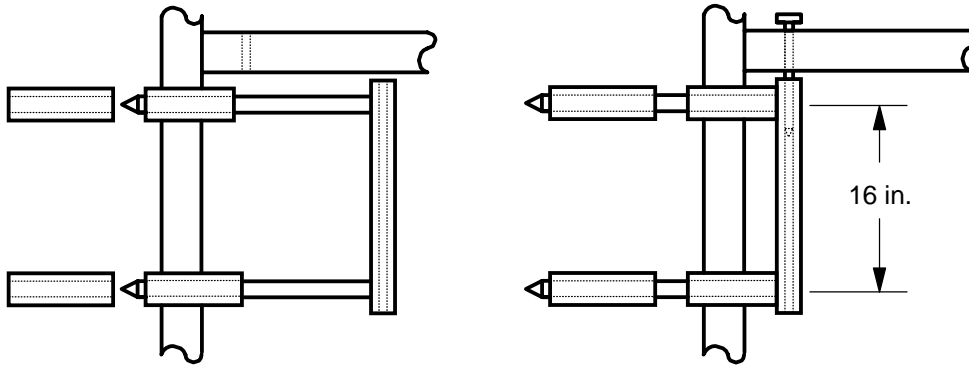
Group Pens

Animals are not tied in group pens, consequently the pen partitions must be much higher. Basic partition construction is the same as that for alley partitions, that is, vertical pipes are galvanized steel with a 4 inch outside diameter. Horizontal bars are galvanized pipe with a 2 inch outside diameter not. Height to the top bar is about 78 inches. Horizontal bars are located on 1 foot centers (i.e., clear space of approximately 10 inches). Special gates mounted so that they swing 360 degrees are used to move and lock animals in the front or rear of the pen.

The main goal with group pens is to limit bull to human contact to the greatest extent possible. Dogs (described later) accompany humans entering group pens. The intent is for the dog to be the victim.

Gate Latches

Each gate latch consists of two horizontal sliding pins that move as a single unit. A vertical pin is used to hold the pins in a locked position. The vertical pin is held in place by gravity. In order to open a gate, the animal would have to pull the vertical pin and then slide out the horizontal locking pins. Two horizontal pins are used so that the gate cannot be twisted when it is closed. With a single horizontal sliding pin, a closed gate is easily twisted by a large animal.



Dogs

Dogs are used to cut (separate) bulls in group pens. Dogs bred on-site are $\frac{1}{4}$ Australian Shepherd and $\frac{3}{4}$ Blue Heeler (Note: Heelers, Red Heelers, Blue Heelers, Queensland Heelers, and Australian Cattle Dogs are all the same breed of dog. Australian Cattle Dog is the "official" (AKC) breed name). The Australian Shepherd is a herding breed developed in the Western United States by immigrant Basque to herd sheep. They closely resemble a Border Collie in build. They look nothing like the Heeler (i.e., Australian Cattle Dog), a breed developed in Australia to herd cattle. Heelers are called heelers because they nip at the heel/hooves of horses or cows in order to drive them in the direction wanted. Conversely, Shepherds herd by fronting and redirecting an animal. Heelers are more tenacious, that is, they have a more "physical" style of herding than the typical sheep-herding breeds (Border Collies, Australian Shepherds). Heelers will not stop pursuit, even after they've taken a good hit from a cow/horse. The only reason for crossing the Heeler with a Shepherd for bull handling purposes is to development a tenacious animal with a tendency and willingness to get in *front* of the bull for purposes of moving the animal and defending the person.

Grazing

One idea (not necessarily recommended) is to attach a short piece of chain (3 to 4 feet) to the animal's nose ring. A bull will have a difficult time moving forward with its head down since it will step on the chain. This makes it more difficult for an animal to charge. If a chain is too long it can impede a bull's daily activities. Also, one individual reports seeing a bull with a long chain actually fling it over its neck (in which case charging is not impeded).