

## A simple horse crush

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A D-crush is a simple, effective method of restraining a horse.

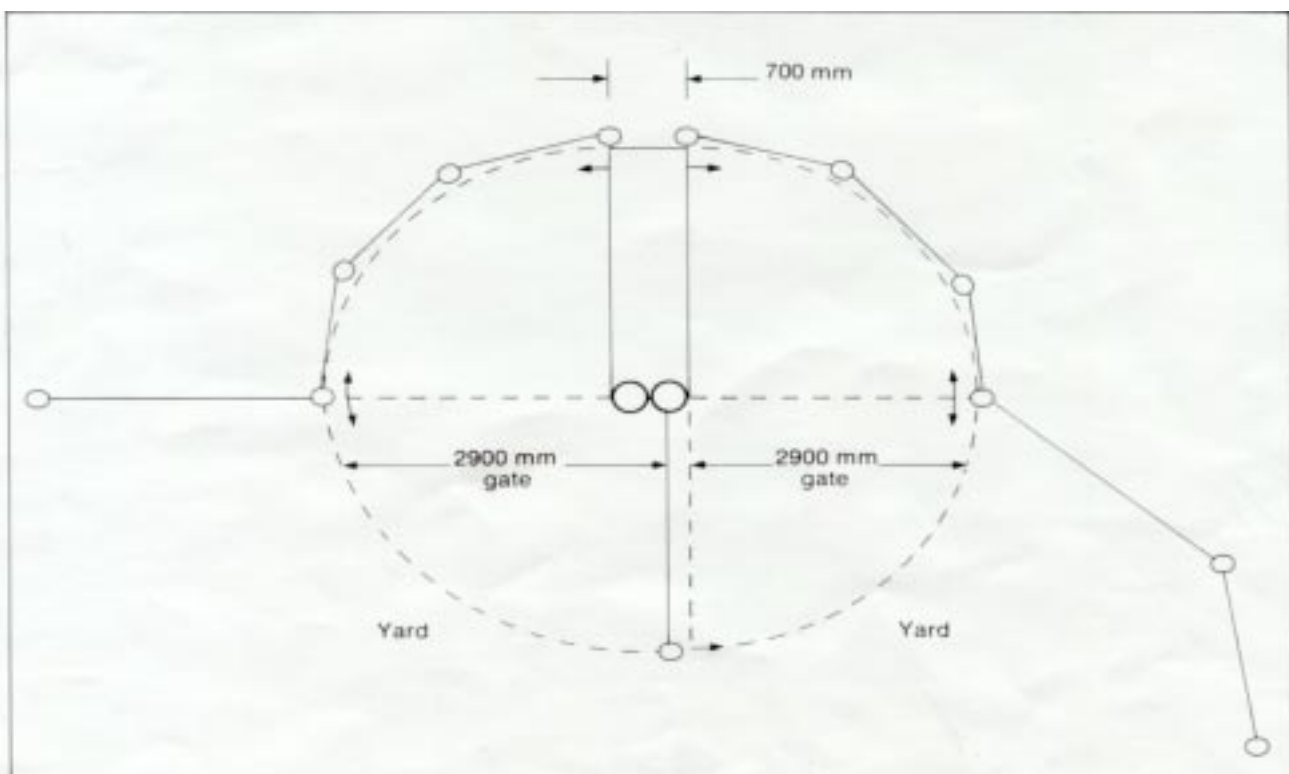
From the plan (Figure 1), it can be seen that the straight line of the D is formed by two gates which are hinged 700 mm apart. Both gates are 2900 mm long and 1700 mm high.

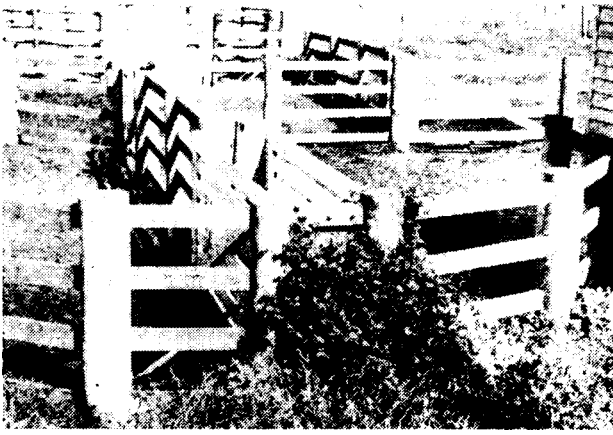
The curved section of the D is constructed so that these gates can be moved to form a crush.

To operate the crush, the horse is led, or drafted, into the D-shaped yard. Both gates are then gently moved until the horse is confined.

Confined horses are prone to injury. It is preferable that the gates and the curved section be closely boarded to prevent the horse getting its legs caught. Greenhide leather fixed to the inside of the actual crush gives added protection

Figure 1. Plan of D-crush and yards.



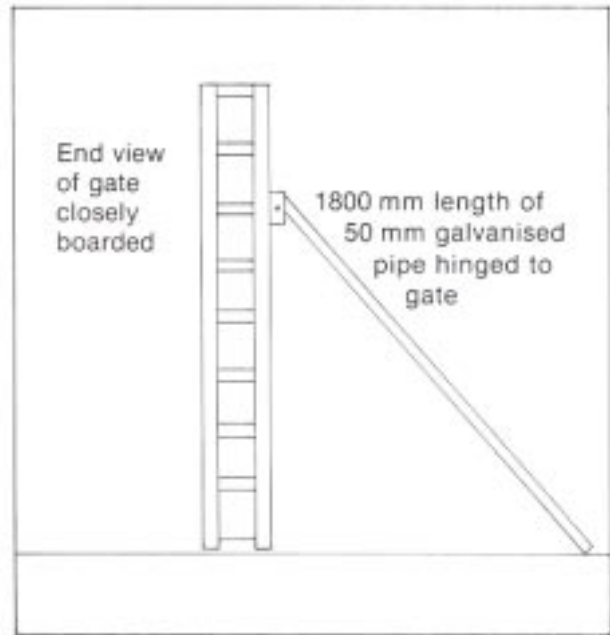


**A D-crush and associated yards.**

against injury. Alternatively, marine ply or rubber matting can be used.

Human safety is another consideration. When the gates are being closed on a horse they can be latched at each of the posts in the curved section. A length of galvanised pipe hinged to the back of each gate at the head will also act as a safety stop should the gate be forced back. This pipe can be seen in the photograph and is also shown in Figure 2.

This type of crush is installed on research stations conducted by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. Over many years, the design has proved effective for operations such as drenching, teeth care, vaccinations and minor surgery.



**Figure 2. A safety stop on the gate is a useful precaution.**

**DISCLAIMER**

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing August 2002. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Agriculture or the user's independent adviser.

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