



## ***Calving Gate***

***Model 1060g***

***Instruction Manual  
& Operating Guide***



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## Foreword / Intended Use

The Ritchie Calving Gate has been designed for, and is intended to be used by, the agricultural industry as a pen frontage and as a restraint system for a cow during assisted calving and neonatal calf care. The gate is designed to maximise safety and minimise stress in both the animal and the operator.

David Ritchie Implements shall not be liable for damage resulting from misappropriate use of the unit, i.e. for purposes other than those indicated in this manual.

Intended use also comprises adherence to the operating, maintenance and servicing instructions contained in this manual.

The unit must only be used in perfect working condition. Any functional disorders, especially those which affect the health and safety of personnel must be rectified before further use.



**The unit should only be used by an experienced stockperson who has read the operator's instruction manual.**

Following the assembly, operation and maintenance instructions within this manual should allow the operator to achieve the best performance from the product resulting in better productivity and increased reliability.

Operators should read carefully all safety notes contained within the manual prior to using the unit in order to help avoid dangerous situations, expensive repairs and prolonged downtime.

The right to alter specifications, equipment and maintenance instructions at any time, without notice is reserved as part of our policy of continuous development and improvement.

No liability can be accepted for inaccuracies or omissions in this manual, although every possible care has been taken to make it as complete and accurate as possible.

Owners who encounter a problem not covered in this manual should contact David Ritchie (Implements) Ltd at the address given on the rear cover of this manual, or consult their local Ritchie dealership.

**Deviations from the intended use should not take place without the notice and approval of David Ritchie (Implements) Ltd.**



## Safety Information

**Please read these instructions carefully. Ignoring these instructions could result in personal injury or damage to the equipment.**

These instructions apply to all personnel involved with the operation, maintenance and servicing of the equipment.

### General

The Ritchie Calving Gate must only be used by an experienced, competent stockperson who has been trained in the use of the unit.

Do not modify any part of the unit unless modifications or additions are approved by the manufacturer. This also applies to welding work.

Do not use the unit if a malfunction occurs as this could lead to personal injury and/or damage to the equipment.

Warning: During assembly and operation the handling of heavy components is required. This should be carried out in a safe manner using suitable lifting equipment if required. Wear safety footwear for protection.

Warning: Parts of the Calving Gate are galvanised. Although every care has been taken to remove zinc spikes it is recommended that safety gloves be worn when handling galvanised parts.

## Before and During Installation

Manual handling regulations should be followed when installing the Calving Gate. The use of lifting equipment should be solely by trained operators who have read the safety and operation instructions for the specific equipment.

## Before and During Operation

When installing the Calving Gate, ensure that the gate is securely fixed and cannot be lifted or worked free by an unsettled animal. Ensure there is sufficient space at the rear of the cow for calving equipment operation and for the operator to work safely and efficiently.

## Service and Maintenance

The Calving Gate should be checked and lubricated according to the Maintenance instructions within this manual. Failure to repair or replace any damaged or excessively worn part could lead to personal injury, animal injury or damage to the unit.

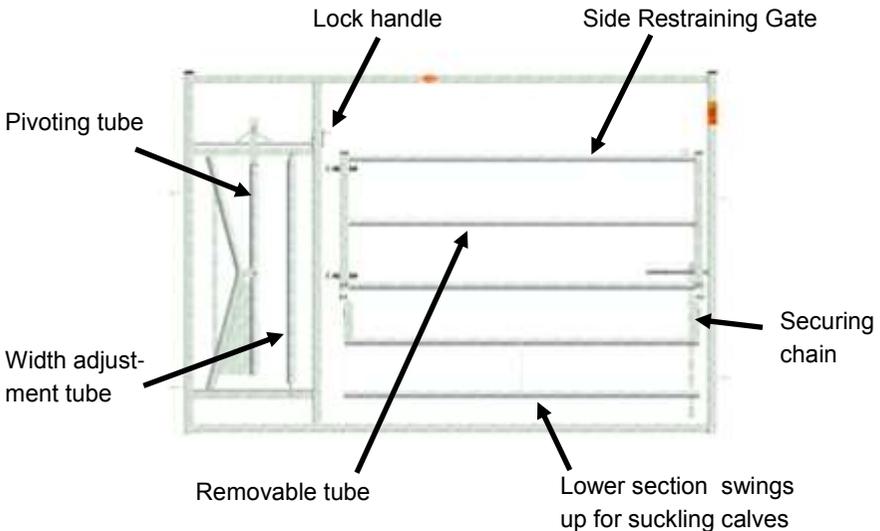


## Features

- Used as part of a penning system to catch and restrain a cow for inspection or assisted calving.
- Self-locking head yoke with optional rope assistance.
- Multi-function side restraining gate adjusts to allow Caesarean calving, calf suckling and easy operation in deep straw/litter.
- Fully galvanised

## Specifications

Length .....	3145 mm
Side Restraining Gate Width .....	2250 mm
Height .....	1940 mm
Weight .....	115 kg



# Installation of the Calving Gate

**PPE – It is recommended that thick gloves are worn whilst handling galvanised components.**

The Calving Gate can be assembled with Cattle Hurdles, fixed pillars, walls or any combination of the above to make a secure pen for a calving cow.

The Gate is not reversible so the 'head yoke end' must always be installed at the correct side of the pen (see figs 1a and 1b). If the Gate is installed incorrectly - the side restraining gate will not operate correctly and the wrong side of the cow will be exposed for Caesarean Section if required.

When designing the pen, ensure there is enough space at the rear of the cow for operating calving equipment.

**The Calving Gate should be fixed securely to prevent movement while handling an unsettled animal.**

**Fig 1a - Orientation of Calving Gate**



**Fig 1b - Example of installation with Cattle Hurdles**



# Operation of the Calving Gate

Operation of the Calving Gate should only be by an experienced, competent stockperson who has read and understood the instructions within this manual.

## 1. Automatic Head Yoke

First, adjust the width of the automatic head yoke to suit the head size/build of cow. To do this, remove the lynch pin securing the width adjustment tube, whilst holding the weight of the tube. Lower the tube so clear of top rail, tilt to one side and lift clear of bottom rail. Reposition in desired hole in bottom rail then align with corresponding hole in top rail and lift so pin locates in hole. Secure with lynch pin.

**Note: the width adjustment tube should always be aligned vertically to help prevent choking in the event of cow going down.**

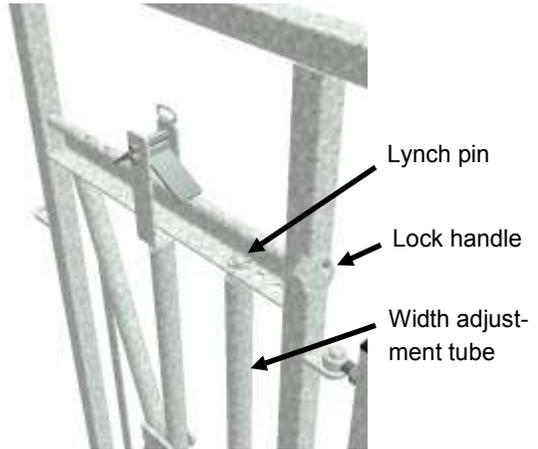


Fig 2a - Automatic Head Yoke

Setting the head yoke for auto closing: If the yoke is already closed, turn the lock handle clockwise to release the pivoting yoke tube. Now turn the lock handle anti-clockwise to make head yoke ready.

Catching the cow in the yoke: The cow should be lured or guided into the head yoke. The yoke will automatically lock when the cow puts its neck down on the pivoting tube. A chain link is positioned on the top of the pivoting tube for attaching a rope to assist with yoke locking. The rope can be passed through a second chain link positioned on the yoke frame and a third chain link at the end of the side restraining gate, allowing the rope to be operated from the rear of the cow.

Releasing the head yoke: to release the head yoke, turn the lock handle clockwise. This will allow the pivoting tube to move freely.

## 2. Side Restraining Gate

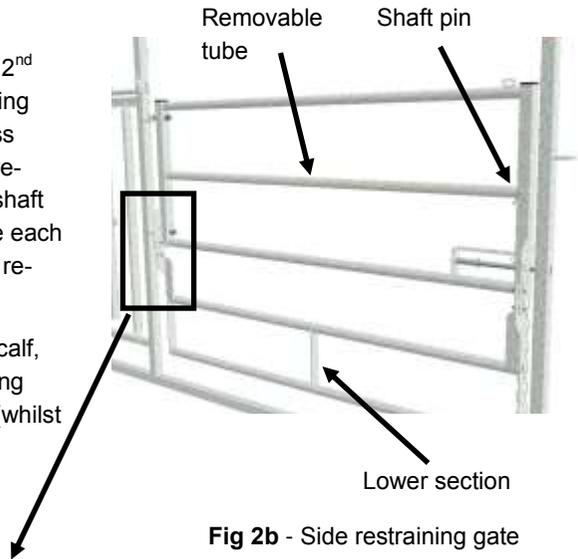
Once the cow is held in the head yoke, the side restraining gate can be swung round across the side of the cow. A chain c/w clip is attached for securing gate to side of the pen. If inspecting or assisting calving at rear, ensure chain is positioned so that it doesn't obstruct access.



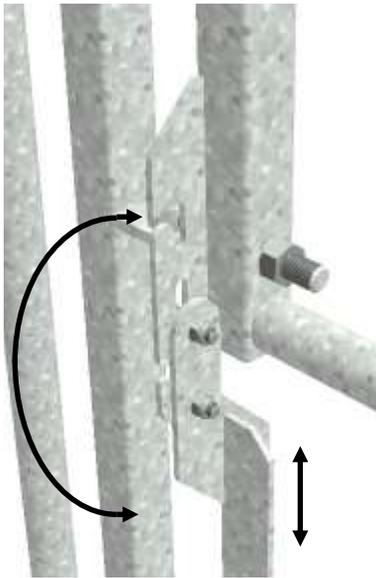
## 2. Side Restraining Gate (Continued)

If Caesarean Section is required, the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the top tube on the side restraining gate can be removed for better access whilst still restricting side-to-side movement. To remove the tube, take out shaft pin and weave tube either way to free each end. (Replacement is the opposite of removal).

If using the Calving Gate to suckle a calf, the lower 2 tubes of the side restraining gate can be raised for better access (whilst



**Fig 2b - Side restraining gate**



**Fig 2c - Mechanism detail**

the gate is secured against the side of the cow). To raise the lower section, firstly raise the lower section vertically up until at the top of the slots in which it hangs (see Fig 2c). Whilst holding it up, swing lower bar away from cow and upwards through 180 degrees. Ensure bolts will engage with bracket and lower vertically down until resting in bottom of hanging slots. (Reverse this procedure for lowering).

**Note: the side restraining gate should be set with removable bar in place and lower section in the downward position until the cow is restrained. Failure to do so may lead to the cow using a gap as an escape route which could result in animal injury and/or damage to the gate.**



## Maintenance

**Daily when in use:-**

1. Check unit for excessive wear
2. Check unit for damage

**Weekly when in use:-**

1. Lubricate pivot points

**Failure to repair/replace any damaged or excessively worn part may lead to further damage or personal injury.**

## Spare Parts

Part Description	Part No.	Qty/Unit
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# Complimentary Equipment

## Cattle Hurdles

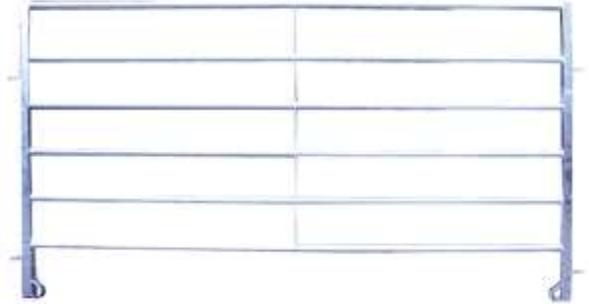
1050G - 6 Rail 2.5m

1045G - 6 Rail 3m

1050GXL - 8 Rail 2.5m

1045GXL - 8 Rail 3m

1054GP - Joining pin



## Calving Cube - 320CALF

Multi-purpose handling crate.



- Calving Gate incorporated.
- Easily positioned with loader.
- Very fast set-up.
- Can carry hurdles, ATV, feed, etc.
- Hot dipped galvanised

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