



## Stress Free Robot Entry

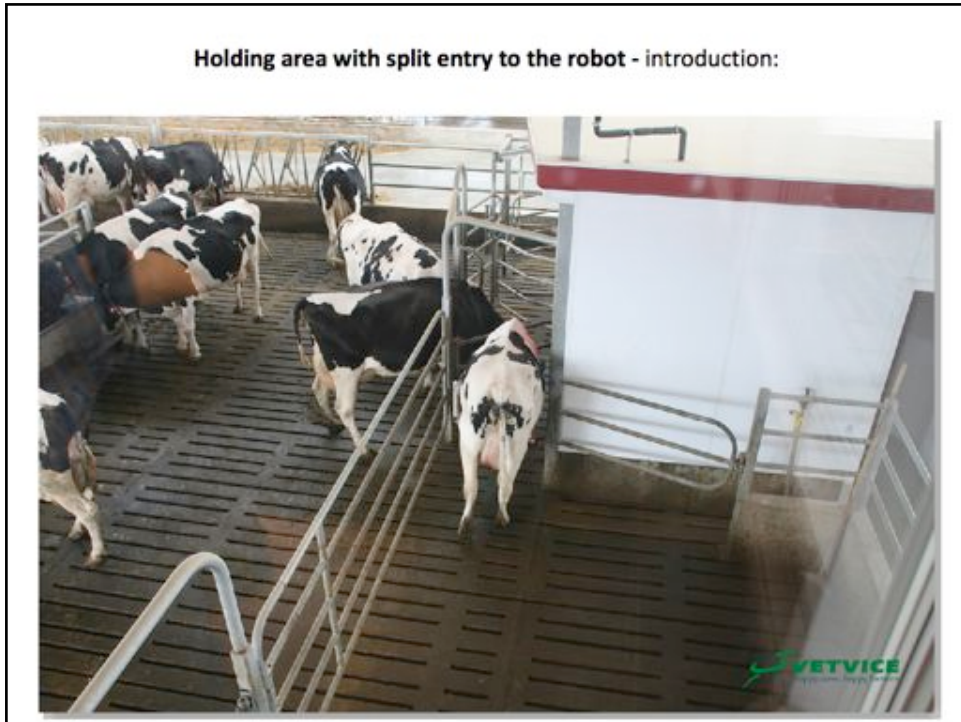
Holding area with a split entry to the milking robot

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**Holding area with split entry to the robot - introduction:**



The key to this holding area design is the swivel gate at the entry to the robot. By way of this gate the robot is always accessible from both the main milking group and from the holding area. The timid cow the farmer has put in the holding area cannot be molested by the boss cow that enters the robot directly from the main group. While the timid cow has nothing to fear in the holding area, eventually she does have to act on her own to get back to feed and water and a place to rest. With this system there is no need to reset gates after milking the fetched cows. Just close the entry gate to the holding area behind the last fetched cow.

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- management**



With this small gate you can easily direct unfamiliar and unwilling cows toward the robot. At the first milking for a new heifer you may need to use this gate and push her in. At a second milking you could use the gate to squeeze her in the entry, chain the gate behind her and wait for her to take the last step on her own. Learning voluntary entry in progressive steps is always easiest for the animal.

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- management**



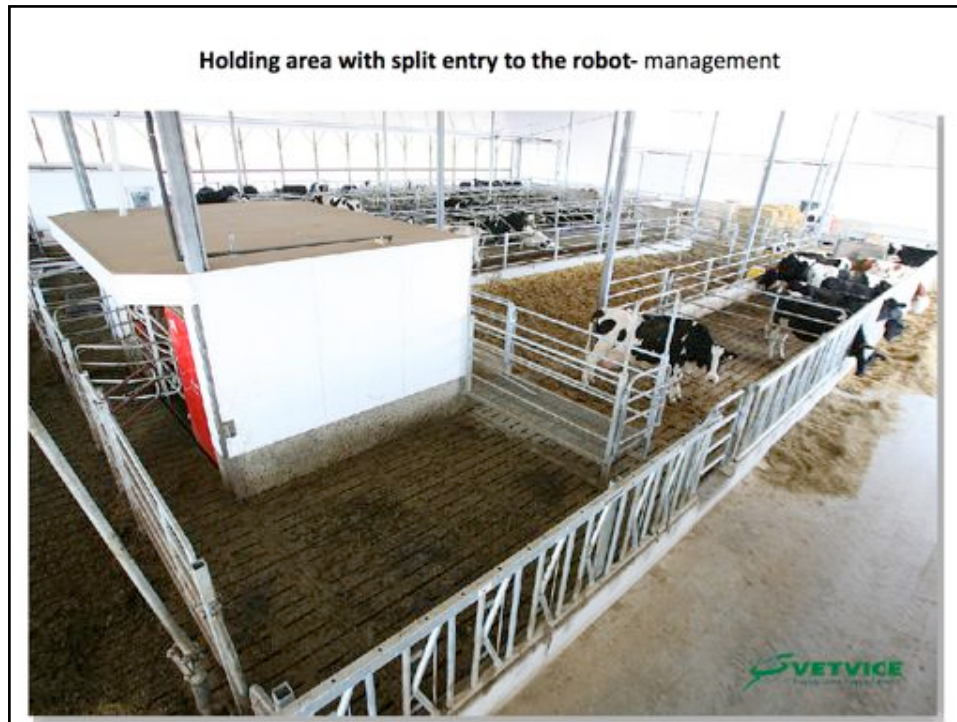
The cow in the holding area cannot be reached by the cow in the main group, giving her the time and confidence to explore the process of entering the robot on her own. Under normal circumstances you should lock the one way entry gate to the holding area as soon as the last fetched cow is through the gate.

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- management**



This vertical swivel gate is designed and placed to direct fetched cows into the holding area. Once this job is done, it disconnects in the middle and swings up out of the way of normal cow traffic





The split entry holding area also makes it possible to milk a second group behind the robot. Here the fresh cow in the bedding pack can be directed to the holding area and after milking the separation gate directs her back to the pack. In this barn the farmer has to open this passage, but with one way gates at the clean access bridge, the cow could be given voluntary access as well. A fresh cow or heifer in the milking group will come looking for her calf and if the entry to the holding area is open she will automatically end up beside the robot for milking.

This barn is designed according to the DairyLogix-Vetvice concept, which includes groups of fresh cows, close up dry cows and far off dry cows behind the robots. This dairyman also has his breeding age heifers behind the robot for easy observation for heats. The design also includes a hoof trimming stall/handling facility between the robots which is easily accessible to all groups of cows.



Here is one construction method for the swivel gate used on this Canadian dairy farm. The gating to the left of the cows shoulder keeps cows away from the robot entry gate.

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- construction**



The swivel gate swings freely on the post to the right of the cow and rests against the robot when a cow from main group enters.



**Holding area with split entry to the robot- construction**



When a cow from the holding area enters, the swivel gate rests against the post to the left of the other gap.

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- construction**



Using a sturdy, square post and angle iron welded to the gate hinge this swivel gate stops at appropriate positions without touching the robot or other gating.

(All gates shown are by Jake Veldhuizen, Jake's Mobile Welding, Norwich, Ontario, Canada)

**Holding area with split entry to the robot- details**



This dairyman has added a hose at the man pass into the holding area, so he can keep walkways and the robot room free of manure, a feature that is a necessity in all robot barns: In barn design, while the big picture is important, the details will be what makes a barn a pleasure to work in for cows and people. Designing robot barns for cow comfort and for labour efficiency is the primary goal of DairyLogix.

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