

Animal Environmental Science

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Welcome

This is the website for “**Animal environmental science**”. To understand individual animals, we have to understand the relationship they have with their environment. This book will focus at the interaction between animals and the environment.

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(Snow Monkey Niseko, Kuchan-chō, Japan)

Chapter 1

Introduction

All living creatures constantly interact with the environment. To understand individual animals, we have to understand the relationship they have with their environment. Also, animals affect the environment. From birth to death, an animal generates carbon dioxide, methane, feces, and urine. The excretes from the animal are built with molecules such as carbon, nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus, and are recycled within and between ecosystems.



Figure 1.1: Alaskan Malamute has the heat-conserving features. To retain heat you want the least body surface area compared to body volume.

Chapter 2

Animal and environment

2.1 External environment

Animal never separates from the stimuli from outside. Basically, animals can find food, shelter, protection, and mates from the environment called *habitat*. The animal habitat includes both physical (non-living) and biotic (living) components (Table 2.1).

Animal habitat is constantly changed over time. Not only natural disasters (eruption of volcano, earthquake, tsunami, and wildfire), also human activity can affect the animal habitat. Unlike the wildlife, the environment of domesticated animals (such as cow, pig, poultry, and dog) that raised in the facility are controlled by the human. In the domestic animals, the external environment includes both physical (e.g. housing, feeder, paddock, fence, and noise) and biotic (e.g. human, mate, and feed ingredients) components.

2.1.1 Biome

A biome is a community of plants and animals that have common characteristics for the environment they exist in (Figure 2.1). They can be found over a range of continents. Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.

The principal biome-types are:

1. Tundra
2. Taiga
3. Deciduous forest
4. Grasslands
5. Desert
6. High plateaus
7. Tropical forest
8. Minor terrestrial biomes

Holdridge (1947; 1967) classified climates based on the biological effects of temperature and rainfall on vegetation under the assumption that these two abiotic factors are the largest determinants of the types of vegetation found in a habitat (Figure 2.2).

The three axes of the barycentric subdivisions are:

1. Precipitation (annual, logarithmic)
2. Biotemperature (mean annual, logarithmic)

Table 2.1: Components of habitat (physical and biotic)

Physical	Biotic
Temperature	Plant matter
Humidity	Predators
Oxygen	Parasites
Wind	Competitors
Soil	Individuals of the same species
Light intensity	
Elevation	

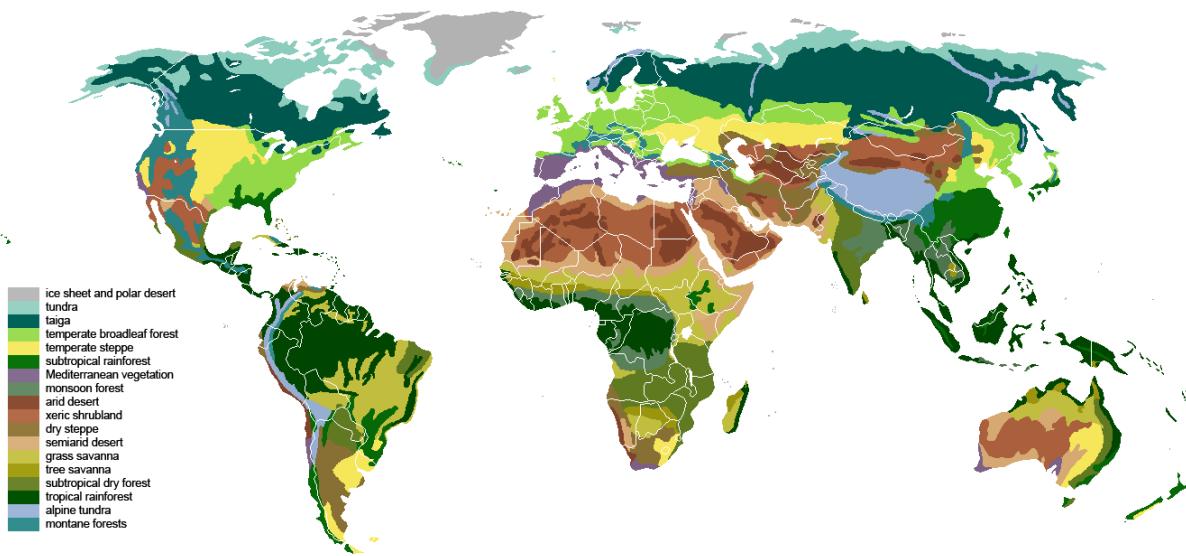


Figure 2.1: Mapping terrestrial biomes around the world

3. Potential evapotranspiration ratio (PET) to mean total annual precipitation.

Further indicators incorporated into the system are:

1. Humidity provinces
2. Latitudinal regions
3. Altitudinal belts

2.2 Internal environment

“The living body, though it has need of the surrounding environment, is nevertheless relatively independent of it.” — Claude Bernard

Higher animals have complex systems that respond to stimuli to perform their essential body functions. When the animal receives the signals from the sensory organs, they produce a local reflex action and/or react in the central nervous system. Weak signals produce no responses, but strong stimuli change the physiological or behavioral status of the animal.

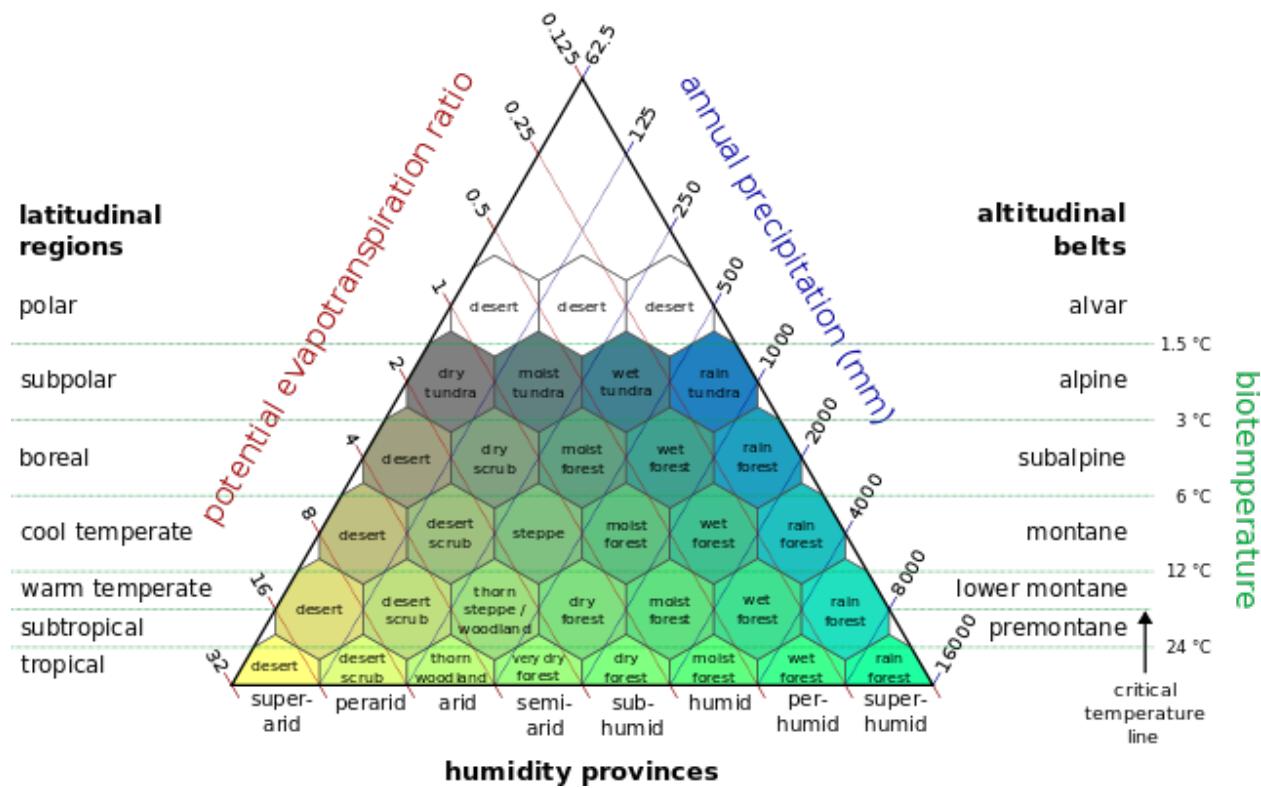


Figure 2.2: Holdridge life zone classification scheme.

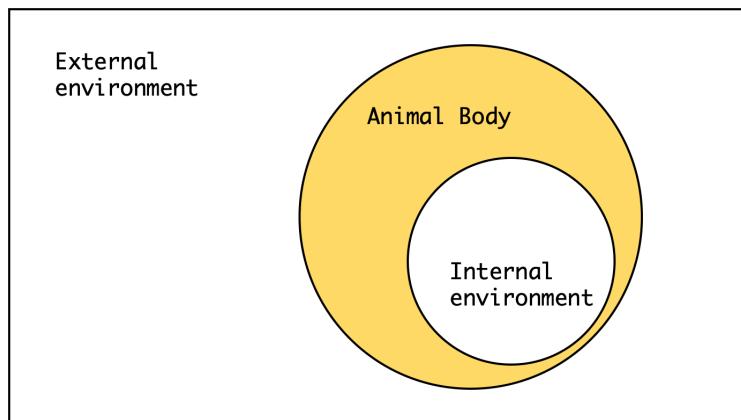


Figure 2.3: External and internal environment

Table 2.2: List of homeostatic control variables

Control variables
Core temperature; Blood glucose; Iron levels; Copper regulation; Levels of blood gases; Blood oxygen content; Arterial blood pressure; Calcium levels; Sodium concentration; Potassium concentration; Fluid balance; Blood pH; Cerebrospinal fluid; Neurotransmission; Neuroendocrine system; Gene regulation; and Energy balance

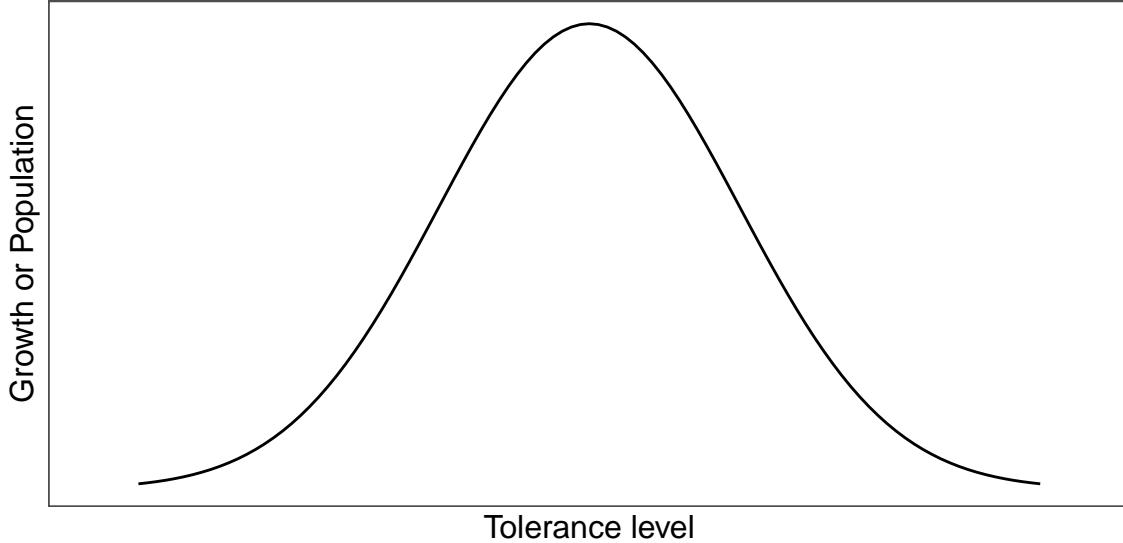


Figure 2.4: Shelford's law of tolerance

2.2.1 Shelford's law of tolerance

“Each and every species is able to exist and reproduce successfully only within a definite range of environmental conditions.” — Ronald Good

Although external environments are continuously changed, if animals in the normal status, they keep the composition of the extracellular fluid (internal environment) constant to maintain their life. We call it *homeostasis*.

However, the capacity to maintain the homeostasis is broken when the animals let the harsh environments and differ by their species. **Animals may be limited in their growth and their occurrence by the minimum, maximum, and optimum condition** (Shelford, 1931) (Fig. 2.4).

The optimum range of environmental condition may differ within the same organism, and it is not necessarily fixed. They can change as:

- Change of seasons
- Change of environmental conditions
- Life stage of the organism

2.2.2 Adaptation

“Changes in morphological, anatomical, physiological, biochemical and behavioral characteristics of the animal which promote welfare and favor survival in a specific environment.” — Hafez

Hafez et al. (1968) defined an adaptation as above. The adaptation helps an animal survive in their external environment. The representative adaptive traits are:

1. Structural adaptation
2. Behavioral adaptation
3. Physiological adaptation

Structural adaptation is the changes in physical features (e.g. body shape, skin, and internal organs) of the animal. Behavioral adaptation is the changes in behaviors (e.g. searching for food, mating, vocalizations, and mitigation) of the animal. Physiological adaptation is the changes in the animal body functions such as growth, temperature regulation, and ionic balance. Sometimes, adapted animal create a new species (*speciation*).

2.2.3 Acclimatization

Acclimatization is the physiological changes induced by a complex of factors such as altitude, temperature, humidity, photoperiod, or pH. Acclimatization is the short-term process (hours to weeks) by comparison with adaptation (take place over many generations).

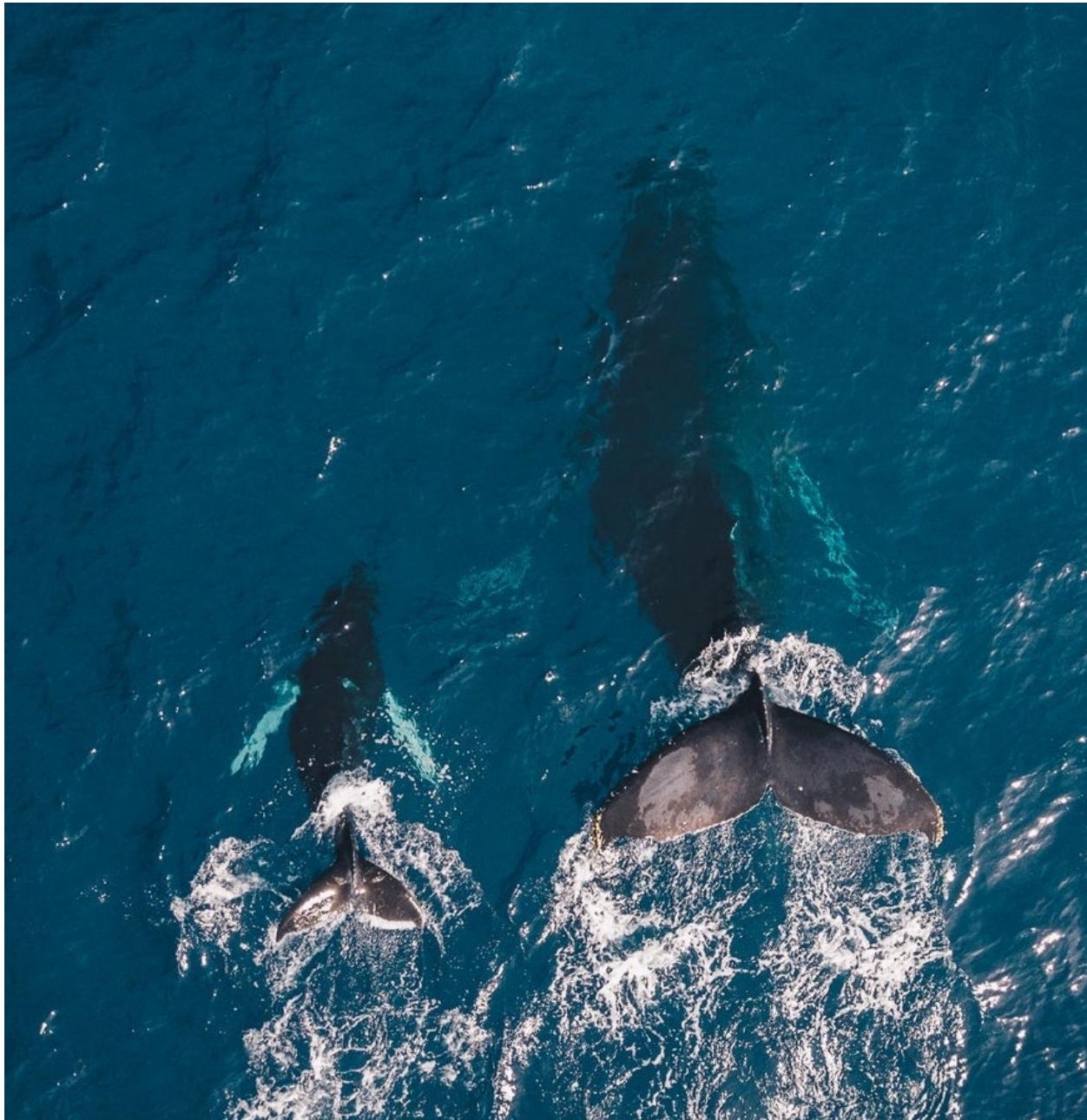


Figure 2.5: Migration is an example of a behavioral adaptation. Grey whales swim from the Arctic to Mexico every year.

Chapter 3

Temperature

Temperature is a quantity expressing of the amount of heat. Because a rate of every chemical reaction occurs in the animal's body is affected by the temperature, it is a very important factor to all animals. Like most chemical reactions, an enzyme-catalyzed reaction rate in the animal's body increases as the temperature is raised. However, extremely high or low temperature results in loss of activity or lose the structure for most enzymes (*denaturation*; Figure 3.1).

3.1 Poikilotherm and homeotherm

Key factors for animal surviving are to adapt to external environmental changes and maintain a consistent internal environment. The animal can be divided into two types for response to external temperatures: *poikilotherm* (cold-blooded animals) and *homeotherm* (warm-blooded animals). Examples of poikilotherms are most fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Their internal body temperature varies considerably according to their external environments. On the other hand, homeotherm maintains their thermal homeostasis regardless of the external temperature. The examples of homeotherm are birds and mammals.

3.1.1 Poikilotherm

The term derives from the ancient Greek language *poikilos* (ποικίλος; changeable) and *thermos* (θερμός; heat). The body temperature of poikilotherms varies considerably than those of homeotherms (Figure 3.2). They generally use solar radiation for maintaining their body temperature and have four to ten enzyme systems that can operate at different ambient temperature because the temperature affects the chemical reactions.

3.1.2 Homeotherm

Homeotherms can maintain body temperature independently from ambient temperatures by regulating the metabolic process. They preserve their body temperature by muscle contraction and brown adipose tissue is catabolized for heat production (Grigg et al., 2004). In hot environments, they use evaporative cooling (sweating or panting) for maintaining their body temperature. Most of the domestic animals are homeotherm.

In some homeotherms (bears, hedgehog, marmot, and so on) and poikilotherms (frogs, turtles, snake, and so on), they can enter the *hibernation* in the cold season: the body temperature is dropped, and the metabolic rate is depressed. Hibernating bears can recycle their body proteins and urine to avoid muscle loss.

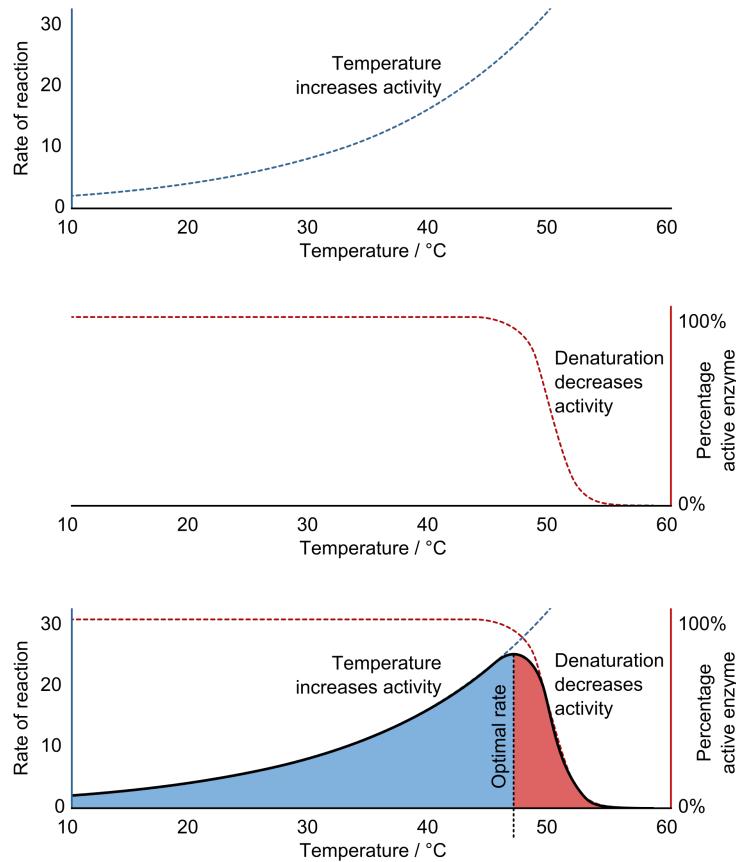


Figure 3.1: The effects of temperature on enzyme activity [@q10]. Top - increasing temperature increases the rate of reaction (Q10 coefficient). Middle - the fraction of folded and functional enzyme decreases above its denaturation temperature. Bottom - consequently, an enzyme's optimal rate of reaction is at an intermediate temperature.

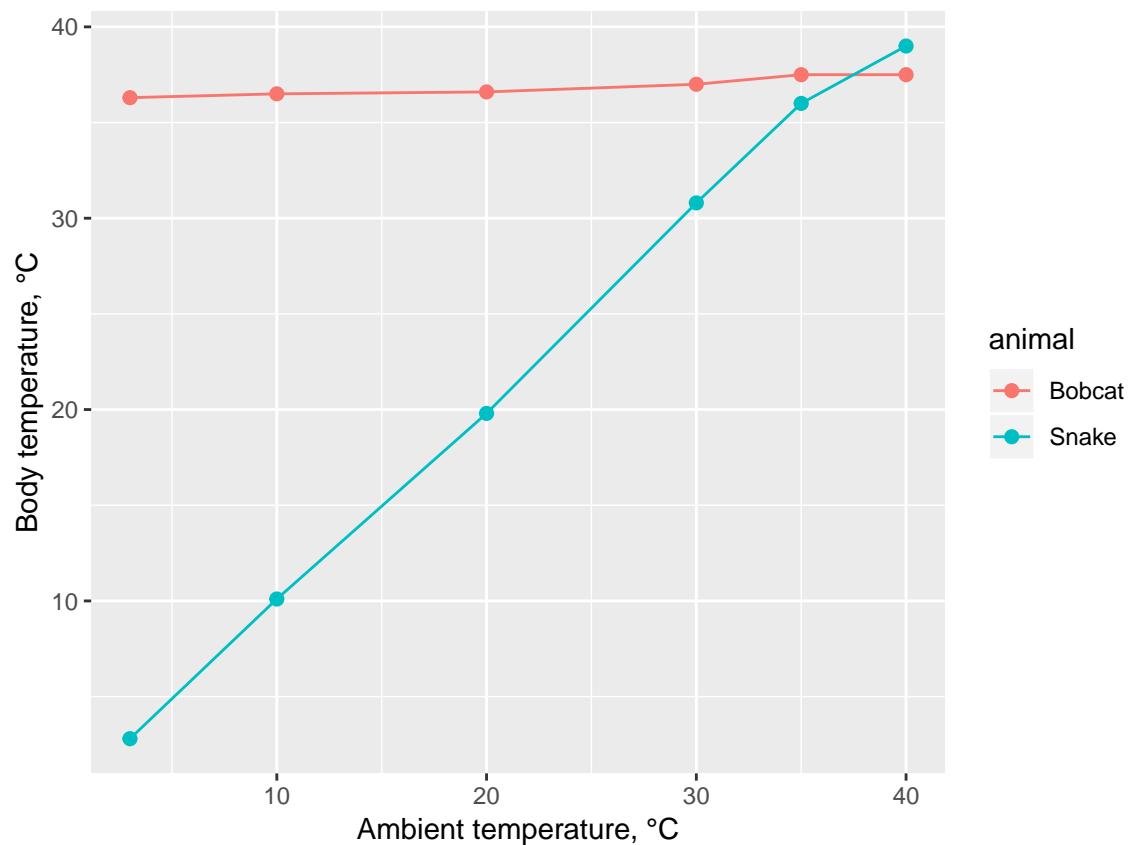


Figure 3.2: Comparison of body temperature response by snake (poikilotherm) and bobcat (homeotherm) to changing ambient temperature.



Figure 3.3: Green frog on blue surface.

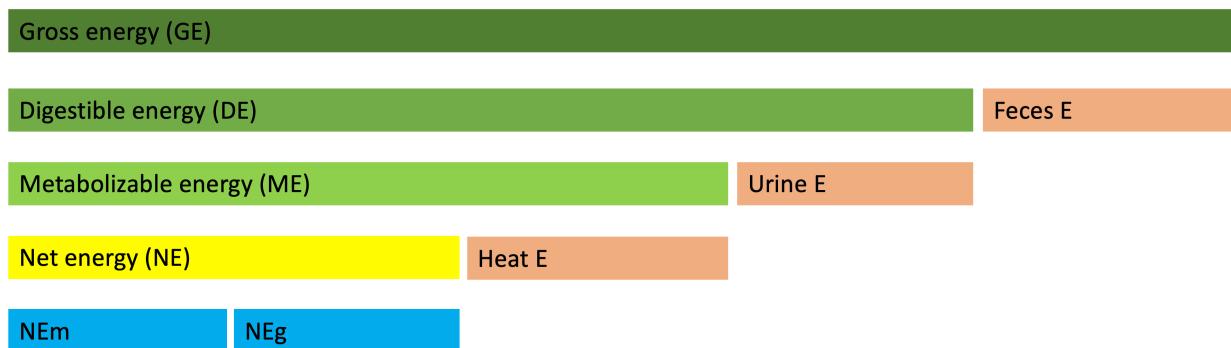


Figure 3.4: Overview of feed energy flow through the animal body

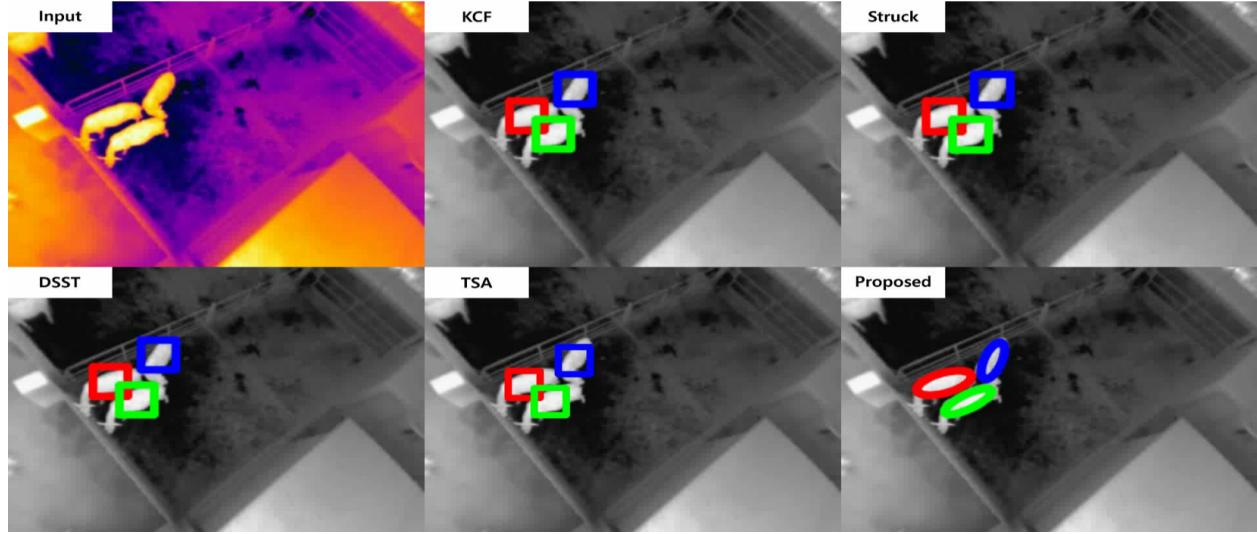


Figure 3.5: Infrared cameras image that cows generating the heats. @kim2018image developed the algorithms for tracking the cows using IR camera video.

Table 3.1: Normal body temperature of the domestic animals; Body temperatures may be 1°C above or below these temperatures.

Animal	Normal temperature (°C)	Animal	Normal temerature (°C)
Cattle	38.5	Donkey	38.2
Calf	39.5	Chicken	42.0
Buffalo	38.2	Camel	34.5-41.0
Sheep	39.0	Horse	38.0
Llama, alpaca	38.0	Pig	39.0
Goat	39.5	Piglet	39.8

3.1.3 Heterotherm

Heterotherms exhibit the characteristics of both poikilotherm and homeotherm. They can switch between poikilothermic and homeothermic strategies. In some bat species, for example, body temperature and metabolic rate are elevated only when they are active. When they at rest, metabolic rate is drastically dropped thereby the body temperature is decreased to the ambient temperature.

3.2 Thermoregulation

Thermoregulation is a process to maintain the internal temperature within certain boundaries. In homeotherms, thermoregulatory physiology is mainly controlled by nervous and endocrine systems. The core temperature of the animal is primarily regulated by the hypothalamus. If the ambient temperature is going to cold, they generate heat via metabolic processes to keep their body temperature. In contrast, in hot conditions, sweat glands release sweat for evaporates and the blood vessels going to wider for increasing the blood flow to the skin.

In poikilotherms, they use external sources of temperature to keep their body temperatures (Table 3.2). To regulate their body temperature, they sometimes climbing the trees, entering the warm water, lying on the cool ground, or lying in the sun. There are some methods for thermoregulation in poikilotherms: *convection*, *conduction*, and *radiation*. Convection is the transfer of heat via the movement of molecules within fluids

Table 3.2: Cooling and heating methods for poikilotherms

Methods	Cooling	Heating
Convection	Increasing blood flow to body surfaces	Entering a warm water or air
Conduction	Lying on cool ground; Staying wet in a river, lake or sea; Covering in cool mud	Lying on a hot surface
Radiation	Get away from the sun	Lying in the sun; Folding skin

(gases or liquids). Conduction is the transfer of heat via the direct molecular collision. Radiation is the transfer of heat in the form of waves or particles (sunlight is the most familiar forms of radiation). Once there's a thermal equilibrium between the animal and environment, the thermal exchange will be stopped.

3.3 Temperature humidity index (THI)

The productivity of domestic animals is primarily affected by air temperature, and altered by wind, humidity, and radiation. Temperature-humidity index (THI) is a combination of temperature and humidity that is a measure of the degree of discomfort experienced by an individual in warm weather (a.k.a. discomfort index). This unitless index was first introduced by Thom (1959) to describe the effect of ambient temperature on humans but has been adapted to describe thermal conditions that drive heat stress in dairy cattle (De Rensis et al., 2015). Temperature-humidity index for dairy cow is calculated as

$$THI = (0.8 * T) + [H * (T - 14.4)] + 46.4$$

where T is the air temperature and H is the relative humidity. The THI is a useful tool for predicting the heat stress of cows, however, it does not account for solar radiation and wind speed which can affect the heat load of cattle.

3.4 Effects heat stress on the animal production and health

Homeotherms have optimal temperature zones for production within which no additional energy above maintenance is expended to heat or cool the body. The range for lactating dairy cows is estimated to be from -0.5 to 20°C (Johnson, 1987).

3.4.1 Dairy cattle

Heat stress decreases milk production. Lactating dairy cows have an increased sensitivity to heat stress compared with nonlactating (dry) cows, due to milk production elevating metabolism (Purwanto et al., 1990). Moreover, because of the positive relationship between milk yield and heat production, higher yielding cows are more challenged by heat stress than lower yielding animals (Spiers et al., 2004).

When a cow becomes heat stressed, an immediate coping mechanism is to reduce DMI, causing a decrease in the availability of nutrients used for milk synthesis (West, 2003; Rhoads et al., 2009). Simultaneously, there is an increase in basal metabolism caused by activation of the thermoregulatory system. Mild to severe heat stress can increase metabolic maintenance requirements by 7 to 25% (NRC, 2001).

Heat stress decreases reproductivity. The decrease in conception rates during summer seasons can range between 20 and 30%, with evident seasonal patterns of estrus detection (De Rensis and Scaramuzzi, 2003). Elevated environmental temperatures negatively affect the cow's ability to display natural mating behavior, as it reduces both the duration and intensity of estrous expression (Orihuela, 2000). A reduction in estrous behavior has been argued to be the result of reduced DMI and the subsequent effects on hormone production (Westwood et al., 2002). Decreased milk production and declining reproductive success are the most commonly examined components of a heat-stressed dairy cow's health.

Temp °F	% Relative Humidity																						
	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100		
72	64	65	65	65	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	69	70	70	70	71	71	72	72	
73	65	65	66	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	
74	65	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	69	70	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74
75	66	66	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	75	
76	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76		
77	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	
78	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	
79	67	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	76	76	77	77	78	78	79		
80	68	69	69	70	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	79	79	79	80		
81	68	69	70	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	78	79	80	80	81		
82	69	69	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	82		
83	69	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	82	83		
84	70	70	71	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	83	84		
85	70	71	72	72	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	84	85		
86	71	71	72	73	74	74	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	84	85	86		
87	71	72	73	73	74	75	76	77	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87		
88	72	72	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88			
89	72	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89		
90	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90		
91	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89	90	91		
92	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92		
93	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	80	80	81	82	83	85	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	
94	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	
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99	76	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	98	99		
100	77	78	79	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	98	99	100		
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106	80	81	82	84	85	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	95	97	98	99	101	102	103	104	106		
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108	81	82	83	85	86	88	89	90	92	93	94	96	97	98	98	100	101	103	104	105	108		
109	81	82	84	85	87	89	89	91	92	94	95	96	98	98	99	101	102	103	105	106	109		
110	81	83	84	86	87	89	90	91	93	94	96	97	99	99	100	101	103	104	106	107	110		
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112	82	84	85	87	88	90	91	93	94	96	97	99	100	102	103	105	106	108	109	111	112		
113	83	84	86	87	89	91	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	105	107	108	110	111	113		
114	83	85	86	88	89	92	92	94	96	97	99	100	102	103	105	106	108	109	111	112	114		
115	84	85	87	88	90	92	93	95	96	98	99	101	102	104	106	107	109	110	112	113	115		
116	84	86	87	89	90	93	94	95	97	98	100	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	114	116		
117	85	86	88	89	91	93	94	96	98	99	101	102	104	106	107	109	111	112	114	115	117		
118	85	87	88	90	92	94	95	97	98	100	102	103	105	106	108	110	111	113	115	116	118		
119	85	87	89	90	92	94	96	97	99	101	102	104	106	107	109	111	112	114	116	117	119		

Figure 3.6: THI chart for dairy cows. Yellow = Stress Threshold Respiration rate exceeds 60 BPM. Milk yield losses begin. Repro losses detectable. Rectal Temperature exceeds 38.5°C (101.3°F). Orange = Mild-Moderate Stress Respiration Rate Exceeds 75 BPM. Rectal Temperature exceeds 39°C (102.2°F). Red = Moderate-Severe Stress Respiration Rate Exceeds 85 BPM Rectal Temperature exceeds 40 °C (104°F). Purple = Severe Stress. Respiration Rate 120-140 BPM. Rectal Temperature exceeds 41 °C (106°F)

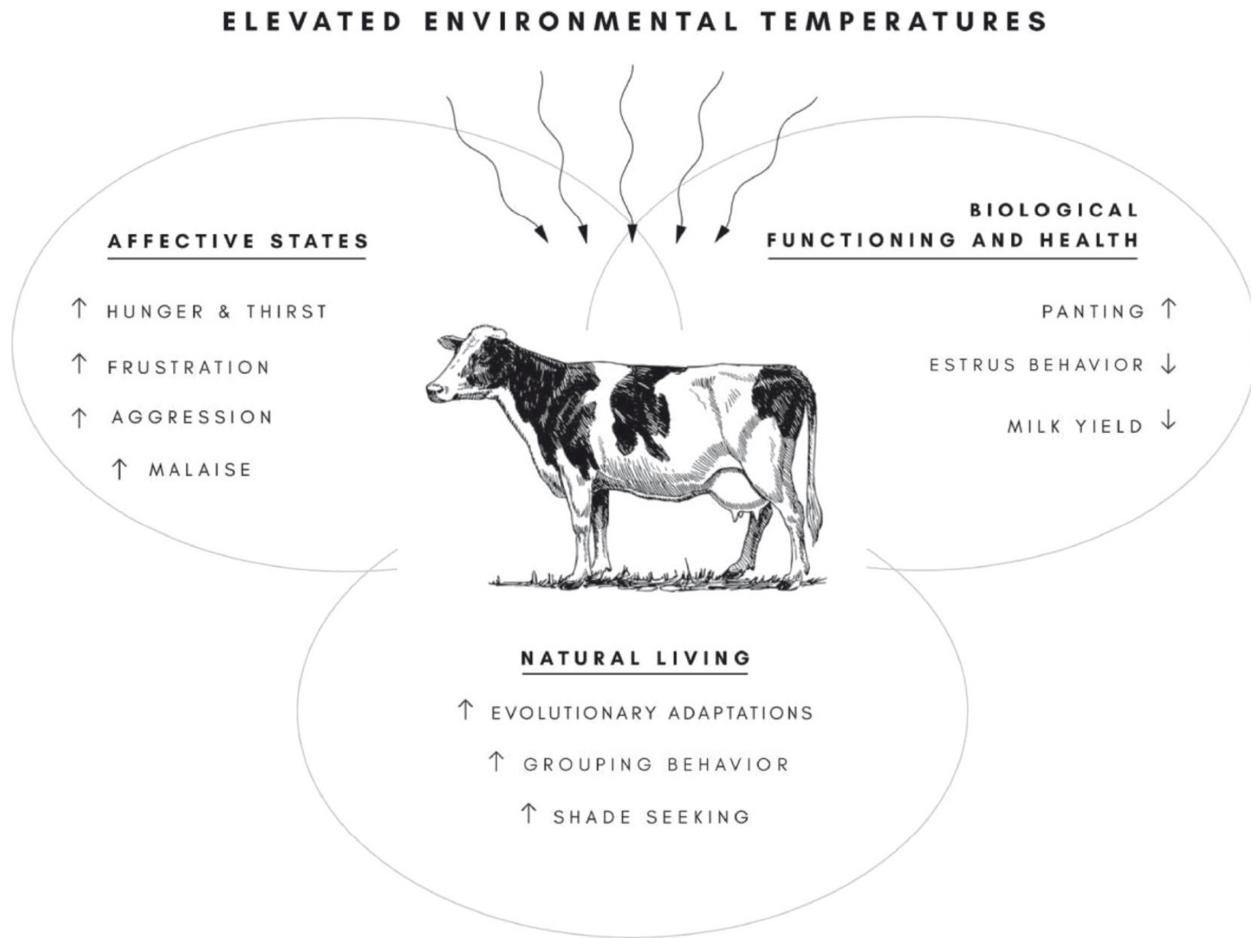


Figure 3.7: The relationship between the immediate effects of environmental heat stress and the 3 key constructs of animal welfare: (1) the biological functioning (and health) of the animal, (2) the affective states the animal is experiencing, and (3) the naturalness of its life under current heat management strategies (Polsky et al., 2017).

Alterations in housing and management strategies have attempted to mitigate the heat stress. Basically, various cooling options for dairy cows exist based on the principles of convection, conduction, radiation, and evaporation.

1. **Fan installations**, which facilitate air movement and increase convection, have been used to reduce environmental temperatures and mitigate heat stress by decreasing respiratory rate and rectal temperature and increasing DMI (Armstrong, 1994).
2. **High-pressure mist injected into fans** (which function to cool the microclimate air that the cows inspire) or large water droplets from low-pressure sprinkler systems that completely wet the cow by soaking the hair coat.
3. **Physical structures** that provide shade such as trees, roofs, or cloth can create more hospitable microclimates for cows because of the reduction in solar radiation exposure and decline in ambient temperature.
4. **Barn orientation** (depending on geographic location) can also help mitigate heat stress by reducing the insolation and stall surface temperature.

3.4.2 Beef cattle

As temperatures heat up during the summer cattle producers need to assess the heat stress that their cattle are under. Typically pastured cattle are not as susceptible to heat stress as feedlot cattle. Pastured cattle have the ability to seek shade, water and air movement to cool themselves.

Compared to other animals cattle cannot dissipate their heat load very effectively. Cattle do not sweat effectively and rely on respiration to cool themselves. Cattle should not be worked during times of extreme heat and only early in morning when it is hot.

Cattle's core temperature peaks 2 hours after peak environmental temperature. It also takes at least 6 hours for cattle to dissipate their heat load. Therefore, if peak temperature occurred at 4:00 pm cattle will not have recovered from that heat load until after 12:00 am and it will be later than that before cattle have fully recovered from the entire day's heat load. Special attention should be paid to cattle with increased risk of heat stress including heavy cattle, black cattle and respiratory compromised animals.

3.4.2.1 Heat stress management

1. The water requirements of cattle increases during heat stress. Cattle lose water from increased respiration and perspiration. **Consumption of water** is the quickest method for cattle to reduce their core body temperature.
2. Heat production from feed intake peaks 4 to 6 hours after feeding. Therefore heat production in cattle fed in the morning will peak in the middle of the day when environmental temperatures are also elevated. **Changing the ration** indicates that lowering the energy content of diet will decrease the heat load. The general recommendation is to reduce the diet energy content by 5 to 7%.
3. **Increasing the air flow** can help cattle cope with extreme heat events. Wind speed has been shown to be associated with ability of cattle to regulate their heat load.
4. **Sprinklers** can be used to cool cattle during times of stress. Sprinklers increase evaporative cooling and can reduce ground temperature. Sprinklers should thoroughly wet the animal and not just mist the air in order to cool the animal. Sprinklers should be placed away from feed bunks and waterers. Cattle need to be introduced to sprinklers prior to extreme heat.

3.4.3 Swine

Most animals can transfer internal heat to the outside of the body by sweating and panting. These are the two most important tools for the maintenance of body temperature and form their inbuilt evaporative cooling system. However, pigs do not sweat and have relatively small lungs. Due to these physiological limitations and their relatively thick subcutaneous fat, pigs are prone to heat stress. Today's modern pig genotypes produce considerably more heat than their predecessors (new genetic lines of pigs produce nearly 20% more heat than their counterparts in the early 1980s.).

The two obvious symptoms observed when pigs are exposed to heat stress are increased respiration rate and loss of appetite. If the pig exposed to 35°C for 24 hours significantly damaged the intestinal defense system and also increased plasma endotoxin levels. It can provide an opportunity for infection as pathogenic bacteria can invade the body more easily.

3.4.3.1 Heat stress management

- Increase ventilation and airflow and regularly check cooling system.
- Reduce stocking density if possible.
- Maintain drinking water temperature as low as possible (around 10°C is ideal but difficult to achieve).
- Avoid feeding between 10:00 to 16:00 (the hottest period of the day).
- Supplement electrolytes and antioxidants through the water supply.
- Minimise excess non-essential amino acids and fibre (minimising intestinal fermentation and therefore heat production).
- Increase availability of antioxidants through the diet such as vitamin E and betaine.

3.4.4 Poultry

High temperature affects the physiological functions of poultry birds at any stage of life which in results affects the poultry production performance. Modern commercial poultry produces more body heat due to their fast metabolism. This makes birds more sensitive to environmental temperature. In addition, the chicks are highly sensitive to heat stress because they don't have sweat glands.

3.4.4.1 Heat stress management

- Semi-open buildings can help the ventilation.
- Maintain drinking water temperature as low as possible.
- A shiny surface reflects solar radiation more than a dark or rusty roof.
- Fat addition and excess essential amino acids in feed.
- Supplement of minerals (Fe, Zn, Se and Cr) and vitamins (vitamin A, C and E).
- Genetic selection strategies.

3.4.5 Canine

When a dog is exposed to high temperatures, heat stroke or heat exhaustion can result. Heat stroke is a very serious condition that requires immediate medical attention. Dogs do not sweat through their skin like humans. They release heat primarily by panting and they sweat through the foot pads and nose. If a dog cannot effectively expel heat, the internal body temperature begins to rise. Once the dog's temperature reaches 41°C damage to the body's cellular system and organs may become irreversible.

Signs of heat stroke are 1) increasing the rectal temperature, 2) vigorous panting, 3) dark red gums, 4) tacky or dry mucus membranes (specifically the gums), 5) lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up, and/or 6) dizziness or disorientation.

3.4.5.1 Treatments for heat stroke

1. Move your dog out of the heat and away from the sun right away.
2. Begin cooling your dog by placing cool, wet rags or washcloths on the body.
3. Do not use ice or cold water. Extreme cold can cause the blood vessels to constrict, preventing the body's core from cooling and actually causing the internal temperature to further rise. When the body temperature reaches 39.5°C, stop cooling.
4. Offer your dog cool water, but do not force water into your dog's mouth.

3.4.5.2 Preventing the heat stroke

1. Never leave your dog alone in the car on a warm day, regardless of whether the windows are open. Even if the weather outside is not extremely hot, the inside of the car acts like an oven.
2. Avoid vigorous exercise on warm days.
3. Keep fresh cool water available at all times.
4. Certain types of dogs are more sensitive to heat – especially obese dogs and short-nosed breeds, like Pugs and Bulldogs (Figure 3.8).

3.5 Climate change



Figure 3.8: Certain types of dogs are more sensitive to heat – especially obese dogs and short-nosed breeds, like Pugs and Bulldogs.

Chapter 4

Photoperiodism

The main source of light on the earth is the sun. Sunlight provides the energy that green plants use to create sugars mostly in the form of starches, which release energy into the living things that digest them. This process of photosynthesis provides virtually all the energy used by living things. Some species of animals generate their own light, a process called bioluminescence. For example, fireflies use light to locate mates, and vampire squids use it to hide themselves from prey.

Daylight is the combination of all direct and indirect sunlight during the daytime. Daytime is the period of time each day when daylight occurs. **Daylight happens as the earth rotates, and either side on which the sun shines is considered daylight.** Illuminance is a measure of how much luminous flux is spread over a given area. The lux (symbol: lx) is the SI derived unit of illuminance.

Photoperiodic response is the physiological reaction of organisms to the length of day or night. A number of biological and behavioural changes are dependent on the daylength. Together with temperature changes, photoperiod provokes changes in the color of fur and feathers, migration, entry into hibernation, sexual behaviour, and even the resizing of sexual organs.

In animals, the regular activities of migration, reproduction, and the changing of coats or plumage can be induced out of season by artificially altering daylight. Long periods of light followed by short periods will induce mating behaviour in species that normally breed in autumn (e.g. goats and sheep), while spring breeders (e.g. mink) will start the reproductive process when daylight is increased. Application of photoperiodism is common in the poultry industry, as daylight affects egg-laying, mating, and body weight of the fowl.

4.1 Seasonal breeding

Seasonal breeders are animal species that successfully mate only during certain times of the year. These times of year allow for the optimization of survival of young due to factors such as ambient temperature, food and water availability, and changes in the predation behaviors of other species. Related sexual interest and behaviors are expressed and accepted only during this period. Female seasonal breeders will have one or more estrus cycles only when she is “in season” or fertile and receptive to mating. Male seasonal breeders may exhibit changes in testosterone levels, testes weight, and fertility depending on the time of year.

The hypothalamus is considered to be the central control for reproduction due to its role in hormone regulation. This is achieved specifically through changes in the production of the hormone GnRH. GnRH in turn transits to the pituitary where it promotes the secretion of the gonadotropins LH and FSH, both pituitary hormones critical for reproductive function and behavior, into the bloodstream.

Seasonal breeding readiness is strongly regulated by length of day (photoperiod) and thus season. Photoperiod likely affects the seasonal breeder through changes in melatonin secretion by the pineal gland that ultimately alter GnRH release by the hypothalamus. Seasonal breeders can be divided into groups based on



Figure 4.1: Sunlight



Figure 4.2: Sheep breeds when the length of daylight shortens

Table 4.1: Light intensity in different conditions.

Illuminance	Example
120,000 lux	Brightest sunlight
111,000 lux	Bright sunlight
20,000 lux	Shade illuminated by entire clear blue sky, midday
1,000-2,000 lux	Typical overcast day, midday
400 lux	Sunrise or sunset on a clear day
0.25 lux	A full Moon, clear night sky
0.01 lux	A quarter Moon, clear night sky

fertility period. “Long day” breeders (e.g. Horse, hamsters, and mink) cycle when days get longer (spring) and are in anestrus in fall and winter. “Short day” breeders (e.g. Sheep and goats) cycle when the length of daylight shortens (fall) and are in anestrus in spring and summer.

4.2 Effects on productivity

4.2.1 Wool

4.2.2 Feathers

4.2.3 Antlers

4.2.4 Puberty

4.2.5 Reproduction

4.2.6 Behavior

4.2.7 Light control in poultry production

4.3 Appendix

Chapter 5

Sound

Chapter 6

Air quality

Chapter 7

Water quality

Chapter 8

Cycles of materials

8.1 Ecosystem

8.2 Trophic level

8.3 Carbon cycle

8.4 Nitrogen cycle

8.5 Calcium and Phosphorus cycle

Chapter 9

Feed ingredients

9.1 Agro by-product

Chapter 10

Manure

10.1 Charateristics of animal manure

10.2 Manure treatment

10.2.1 Solid fertilizer (Composting)

10.2.2 Liquid fertilizer

10.2.3 Purification

10.2.4 Energy generation

10.2.5 Animal feed

Chapter 11

Greenhouse gases

Chapter 12

Animal welfare

Chapter 13

ICT technology

Chapter 14

Sustainable livestock industry

“In essence, the conflict between livestock and the environment is a conflict between different human needs and expectations.” — Henning Steinfeld (FAO)

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