

Animal Environmental Science

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Welcome

This is the website for “**Animal environmental science**”. To understanding 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, Kutchan-chō, Japan)

Chapter 1

Introduction

All living creatures constantly interact with the environment. To understanding 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. Because it's a very huge field, this book can't cover every topic of both wildlife and domesticated animal. Thus, from now on, we will deal with the topic for the domesticated animal.

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.

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. 2.2).

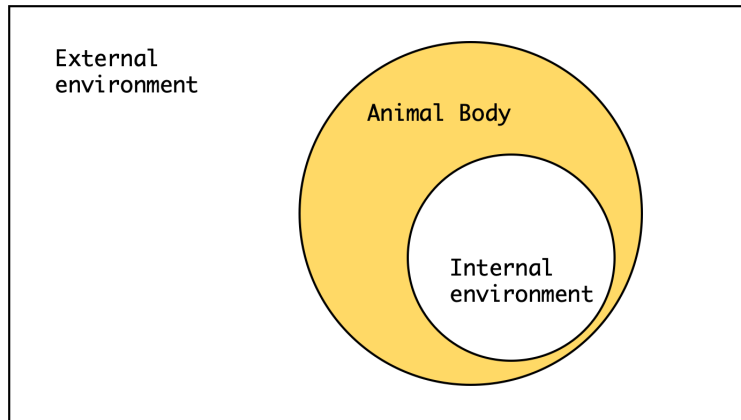


Figure 2.1: External and internal environment

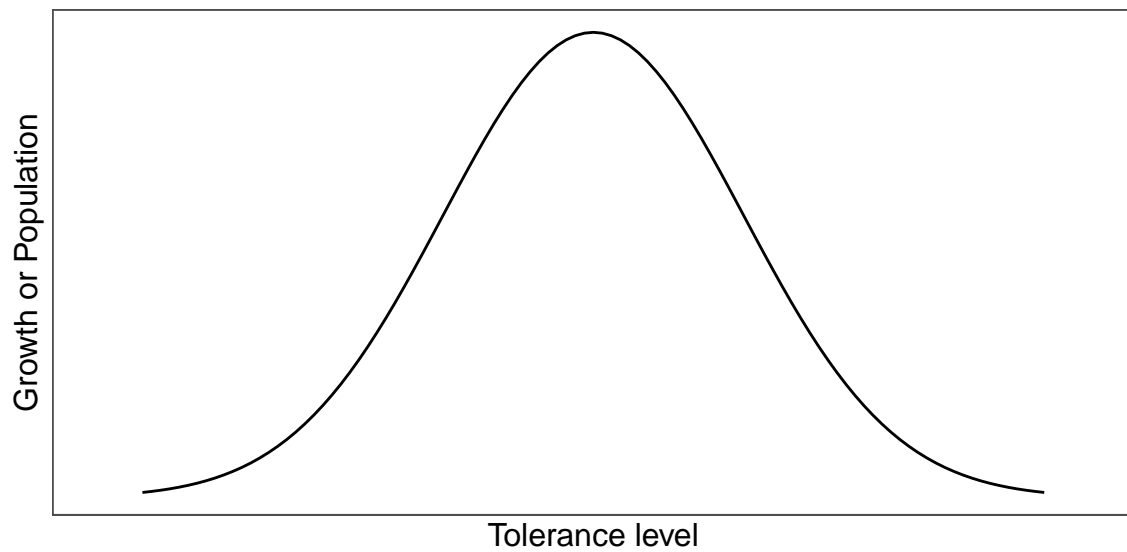


Figure 2.2: Shelford's law of tolerance

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	

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

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).

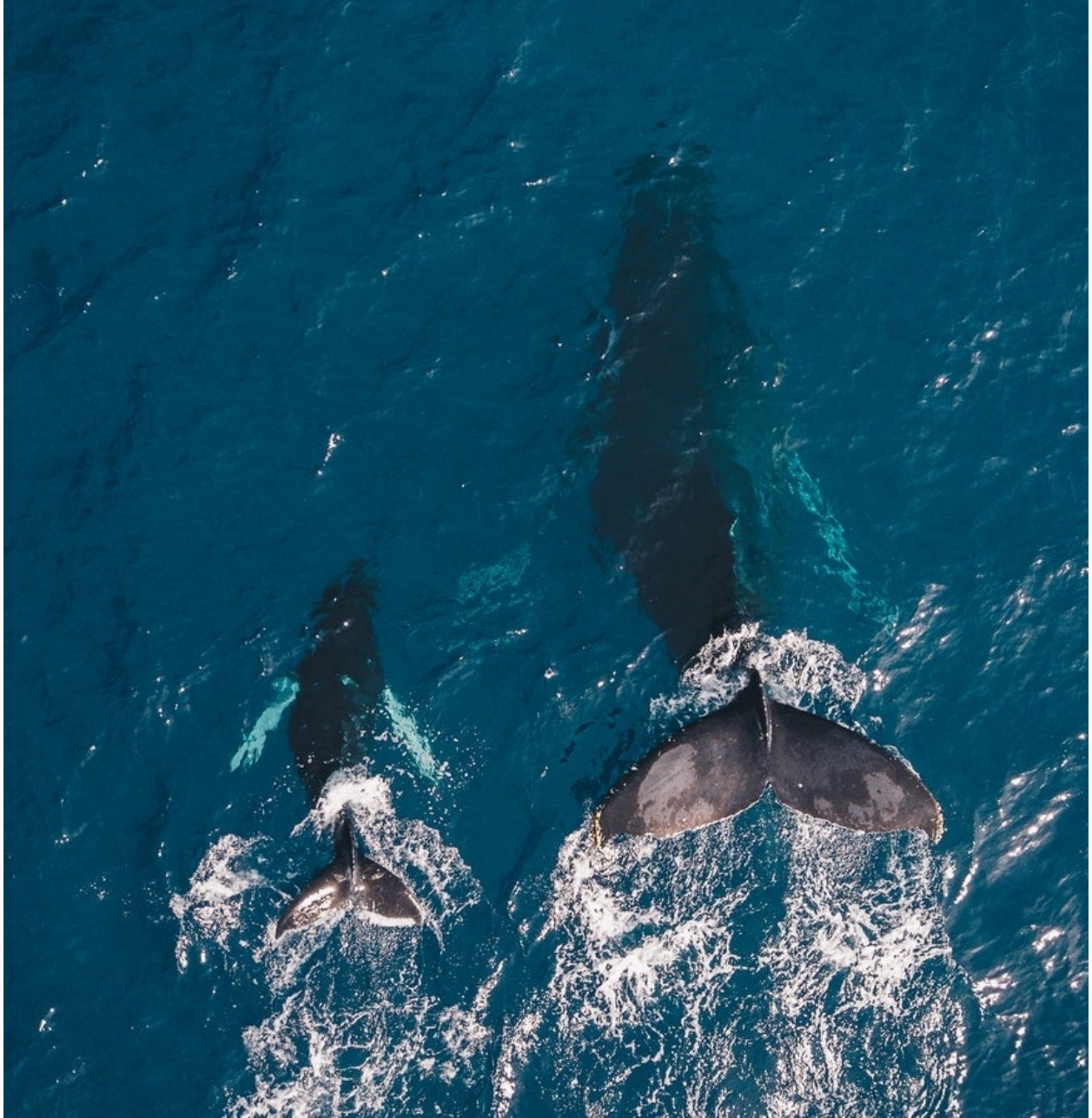


Figure 2.3: Migration is an example of a behavioral adaptation. Grey whales swim from the Arctic to Mexico every year.

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 acient Greek language *poikilos* (; changeable) and *thermos* (; 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 homeotermis (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.

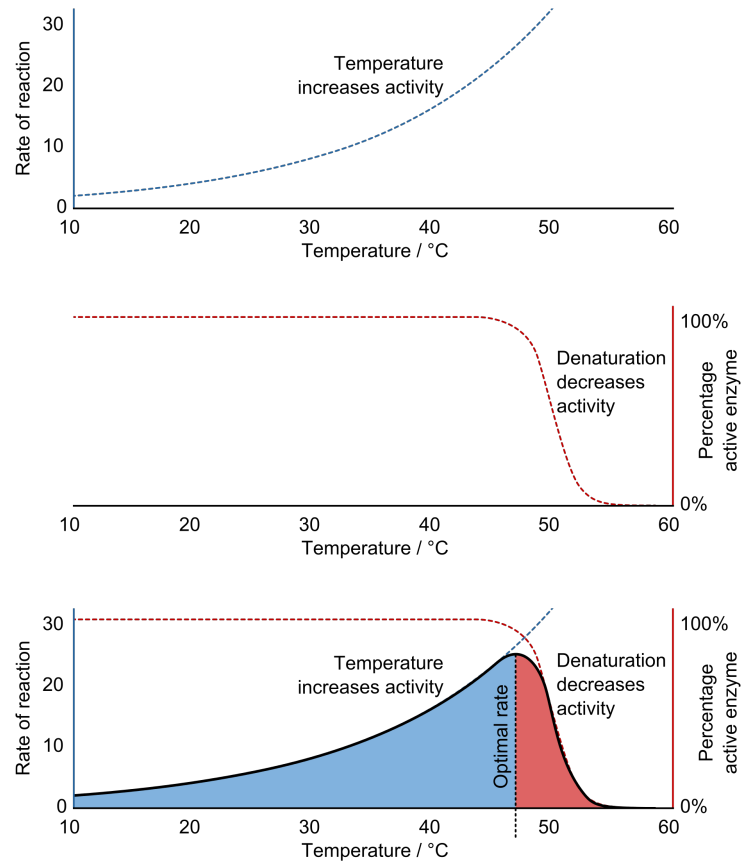


Figure 3.1: The effects of temperature on enzyme activity [q10]. Top - increasing temperature increases the rate of reaction (Q10 coefficient). Middle - the fraction of folded and functional enzyme decreases above its denaturation temperature. Bottom - consequently, an enzyme's optimal rate of reaction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

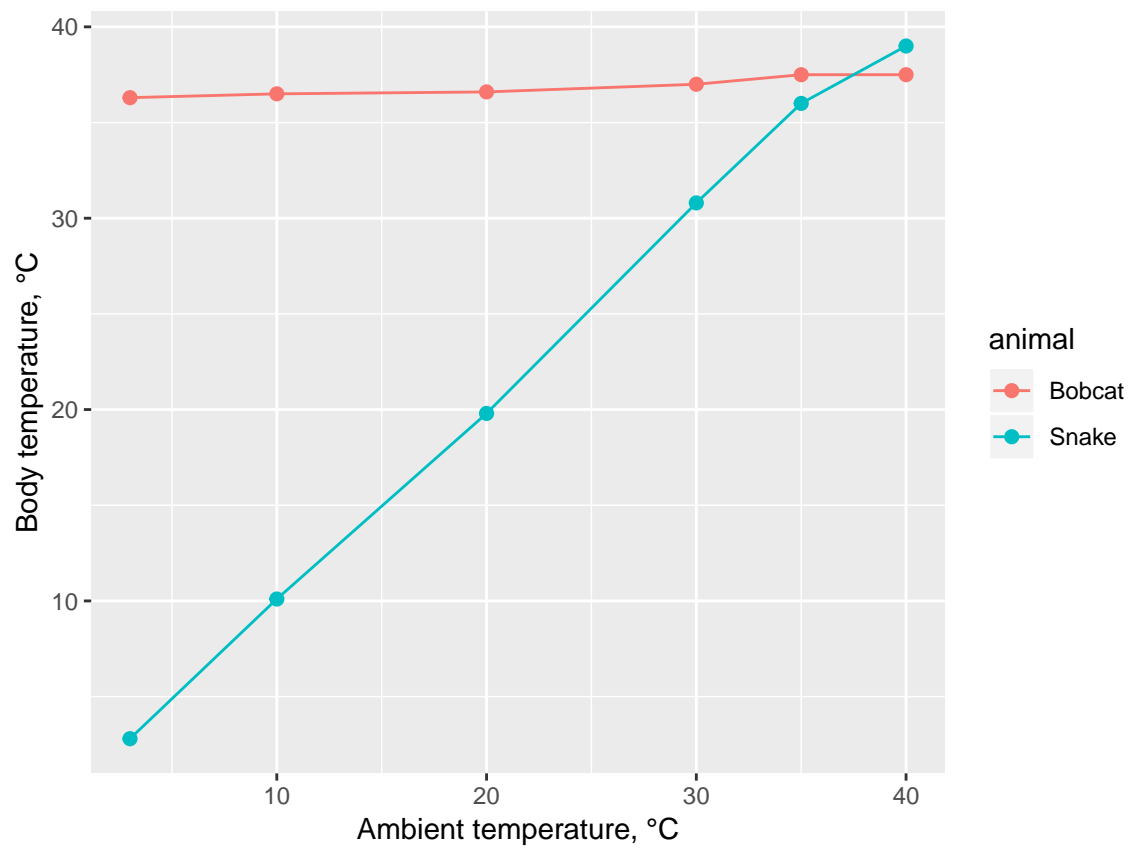


Figure 3.2: Comparison of body temperature response by snake (poikilotherm) and bobcat (homeotherm) to changing ambient temperature.



Figure 3.3: Green frog on blue surface.

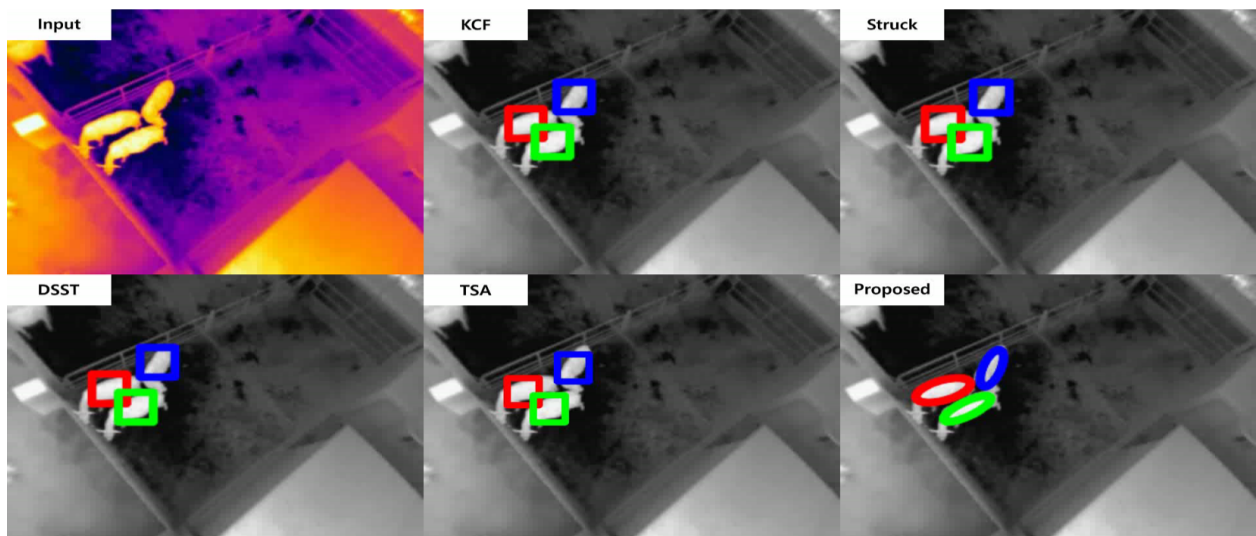


Figure 3.4: Infrared cameras image that cows generating the heats. @kim2018image developed the algorithms for tracking the cows using IR camera video.

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 temperature (°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

Table 3.2: Cooling and heating methods for poikilotherms

Methods	Cooling	Heating
Convection	Increasing blood flow to body surfaces	Entering a warm water or
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

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 (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.

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.

Temp	% Relative Humidity																				
°F	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	69	69	69	70	70	70	71	71	72	72
73	65	65	66	66	66	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	71	72	72	73	73
74	65	66	66	67	67	67	68	68	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
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	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77
78	67	68	68	69	69	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	78	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
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89	72	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89
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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 3.5: 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)

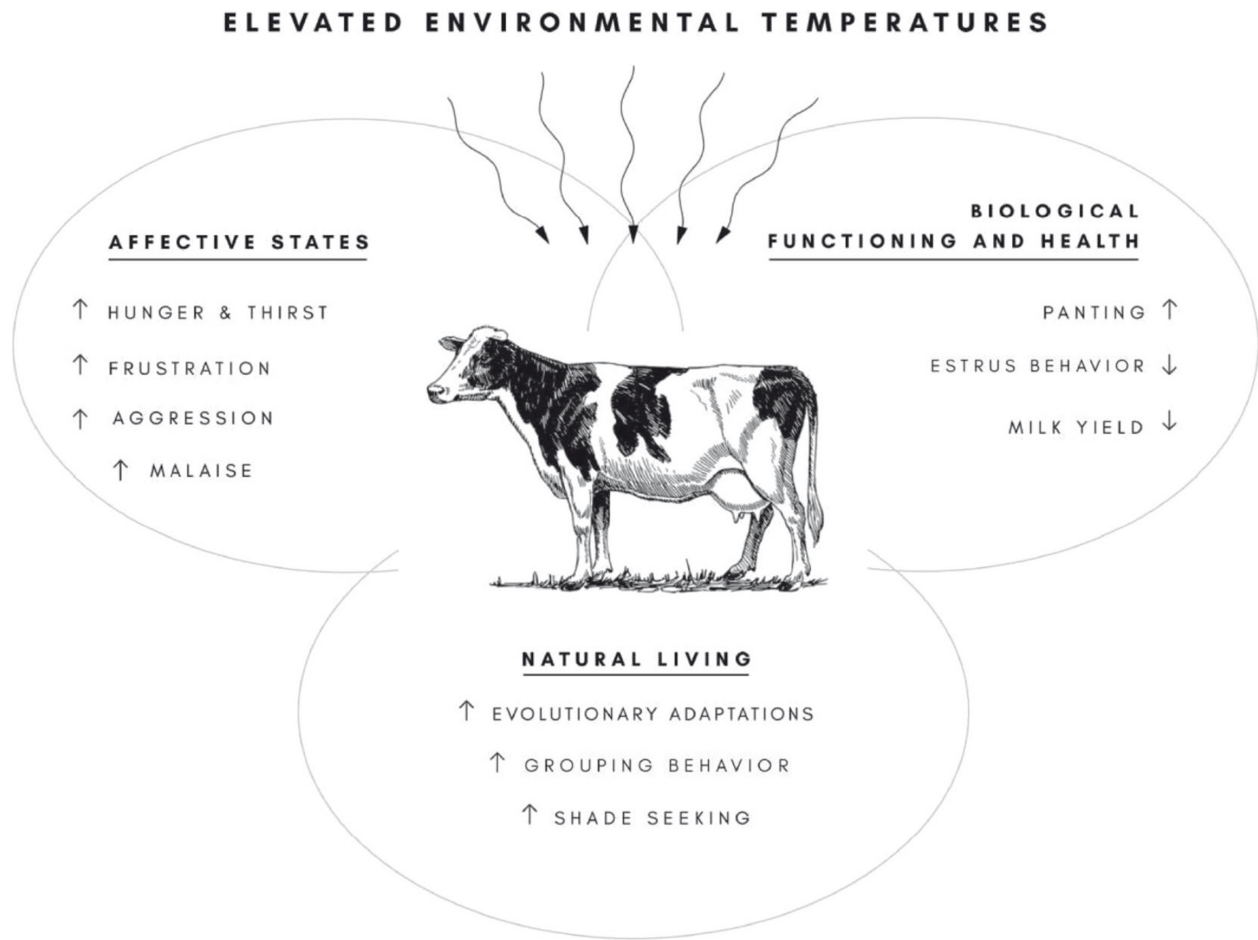


Figure 3.6: The relationship between the immediate effects of environmental heat stress and the 3 key constructs of animal welfare: (1) the biological functioning (and health) of the animal, (2) the affective states the animal is experiencing, and (3) the naturalness of its life under current heat management strategies (Polsky et al., 2017).

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 days 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 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.

3.4.3.1 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.



Figure 3.7: Certain types of dogs are more sensitive to heat – especially obese dogs and short-nosed breeds, like Pugs and Bulldogs.

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.

3.4.3.2 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 3.7).

3.4.4 Swine

3.4.5 Poultry

Chapter 4

Light

4.1 Photoperiodic response

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

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Sound

Chapter 6

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Chapter 7

Water quality

Chapter 8

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8.5 Calcium and Phosphorus cycle

Chapter 9

Manure

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9.2 Manure treatment

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9.2.2 Liquid fertilizer

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Chapter 10

Greenhouse gases

Chapter 11

Animal welfare

Chapter 12

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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