

529 **Behaviour, temperature and terrain slope impact estimates of energy**
530 **expenditure using oxygen and dynamic body acceleration**

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543 **Keywords:** rate of oxygen consumption, pygmy goat, tri-axial accelerometry, indirect
544 calorimetry, locomotion, resting energy expenditure, thermoneutral zone

545

546 **Abstract**

547 The energy used by animals is influenced by intrinsic (e.g. physiological) and extrinsic (e.g.
548 environmental) factors. Accelerometers within biologging devices have proven useful for
549 assessing energy expenditures and their behavioural context in free-ranging animals. However,

550 certain assumptions are frequently made when acceleration is used as a proxy for energy
551 expenditure, with factors, such as environmental variation (e.g. ambient temperature or slope
552 of terrain), seldom accounted for.

553 To determine the possible interactions between behaviour, energy expenditure and the
554 environment (ambient temperature and terrain slope), the rate of oxygen consumption ($\dot{V}O_2$)
555 was measured in pygmy goats (*Capra hircus aegarus*) using open-flow indirect calorimetry.
556 The effect of temperature (9.7 to 31.5°C) on resting energy expenditure was measured. The
557 relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and dynamic body acceleration (DBA) was measured at different
558 walking speeds (0.8 to 3.0 km.h⁻¹) and on different inclines (0, +15°, -15°). The daily behaviour
559 of individuals was measured in two enclosures: enclosure A (level terrain during summer) and
560 enclosure B (sloped terrain during winter) and *per diem* energy expenditures of behaviours
561 estimated using behaviour, DBA, temperature, terrain slope and $\dot{V}O_2$.

562 During rest, energy expenditure increased below 22°C and above 30.5°C. $\dot{V}O_2$ (ml.min⁻¹)
563 increased with DBA when walking on the level. Walking uphill (+15°) increased energetic
564 costs three-fold, whereas walking downhill (-15°) increased energetic costs by one third. Based
565 on these results, although activity levels were higher in animals in enclosure A during summer,
566 energy expenditure was found to be significantly higher in the sloped enclosure B in winter
567 (means of enclosures A and B: 485.3 ± 103.6 kJ.day⁻¹ and 744.5 ± 132.4 kJ.day⁻¹).

568 We show that it is essential to account for extrinsic factors when calculating animal energy
569 budgets. Our estimates of the impacts of extrinsic factors should be applicable to other free
570 ranging ungulates.

571

572

573 **Introduction**

574 At the core of understanding an animal's survival and reproductive fitness is calculating the
575 energetic costs of the ecological processes involved [1,2]. Variation in energy expenditure
576 associated with the extents and intensities of different behaviours impact the fitness and
577 survival of individuals. Part of this relates to efficient foraging [3-5]. Multiple intrinsic (i.e.
578 physiological, such as body mass) and extrinsic (e.g. environmental, such as temperature and
579 terrain) factors influence behaviour and therefore energy expenditure [6-8]. Extrinsic factors
580 are variable, and may be exacerbated climate change [9] which in turn will bring about changes
581 in behaviour, movement, and associated energy expenditure [10,11]. Indeed, it is becoming
582 increasingly clear to what extent environmental variation *per se* affects animal power-use and
583 this is immensely important in understanding the consequences of this variation in a changing
584 world [12-14] A rigorous examination of the methods used to determine energy expenditure
585 within this context is necessary for future work.

586 Extrinsic factors that influence metabolic rate in animals are associated with variation
587 in environmental conditions, such as ambient temperature (T_a) that changes with latitude,
588 season, elevation as well as the time of day [1,15,16]. The majority of mammals are
589 homeotherms and as a consequence must invest energy into maintaining core body temperature
590 (T_b) when the T_a is on either side of the thermoneutral zone [8,17]. Mammals occurring in
591 seasonal environments may need to invest excess energy into thermoregulation [10,18], or they
592 may evolve physiological, morphological or behavioural traits to moderate the energetic costs
593 of thermoregulation [16,19,20].

594 Movement is a fundamental part of the ecology of many animals and it necessitates
595 travel through a heterogenous landscape which determines the energetic costs of movement
596 according to the physical characteristics of the 'energy landscape' [21,22]. Specifically, the

597 physical characteristics of the environment, such as aspect, the substrate (e.g. rock vs sand) and
598 the ‘superstrate’ (e.g. grass or snow), affect the energy cost of locomotion [22-24]. Generally,
599 the cost of transport increases when animals travel on sloped terrain; however, the amplitude
600 of this effect varies both within and between species [25]. Energy expenditure during
601 locomotion is also be influenced by limb length [26], gait (i.e. walking, running) [27], and
602 travel speed [28]. Energy expended in locomotion, for resource acquisition or other reasons
603 (e.g. reproduction; Betts *et al.*, 2008), contributes to a large proportion of an animal's energy
604 requirements or daily energy expenditure (DEE) [29,30]. For example, locomotion in North
605 American pumas (*Puma concolor*) was estimated to contribute 14% of the DEE (MJ day⁻¹)
606 despite individuals being active for only 4.7% of the time [13].

607 Tri-axial accelerometers in animal-attached tags have been deployed extensively on
608 individuals to measure behaviour and movement [31-33], and can be used to determine the
609 relative cost of energy expended during activity [5,34,35]. Specifically, measures of
610 acceleration such as ‘overall dynamic body acceleration’ (ODBA) or ‘vectorial dynamic body
611 acceleration’ (VeDBA), generally referred to as DBA [5,36], have been corroborated with
612 simultaneous measurements of the rate of oxygen consumption ($\dot{V}O_2$) using indirect
613 calorimetry [35,37] or the doubly labelled water technique [38,39]. The particular utility is that
614 calibrations of energy expenditure, for example from measured $\dot{V}O_2$ against DBA, allows for
615 an estimate of a free-roaming animal’s behaviour-specific power (J s⁻¹) and DEE (kJ day⁻¹)
616 (e.g. [13,40]), and furthermore how these tie in with variation in the environment.

617 In this study, we aimed to describe the interaction between temperature and terrain
618 slope using a caprid (the African pygmy goat, *Capra hircus aegarus*) as a model species, by
619 simultaneous measurements of $\dot{V}O_2$ using indirect calorimetry and body movement with tri-
620 axial accelerometers. We aimed to examine how behaviour and energy expenditure measured

621 using biologging tools (tri-axial accelerometers) are predicted to vary in free-ranging
622 individuals depending on the aspect of their environment (i.e., T_a and terrain slope). Pygmy
623 goats are small ruminants (mean \pm SD = 25.9 \pm 6.3 kg) able to adapt to a range of climates and
624 can endure particularly arid conditions [41,42]. We suggest that, since this species can be
625 exposed to a range of conditions in a captive setting, it would be a good model to use in order
626 to relate to other wild caprids of conservation or management concern, including bezoar goats
627 (*Capra aegagrus*), Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*) and Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*).

628 The aims of the study were to: 1) measure the resting energy expenditure (REE) of
629 individuals at different temperatures (9.7 to 31.5 °C); 2) measure the relationship between DBA
630 and $\dot{V}O_2$ when individuals are resting and walking at different speeds (0.8 to 3.0 km/h;
631 increments of 0.1 km.h⁻¹ at temperatures between 11 and 28 °C) and to test how this relationship
632 varies with terrain slope (level = 0, positive = +15°, negative = -15°); 3) classify behaviours
633 from accelerometry data; 4) and using the measured energy expenditure and daily tri-axial
634 acceleration data to estimate the daily behaviour and DEE of individuals allowed to roam freely
635 in two different enclosures; enclosure A (level terrain) during summer and enclosure B (sloped
636 terrain) during winter. For logistical reasons it was not possible to study the goats in both
637 enclosures during multiple seasons. General linear models (GLM) or generalized linear mixed
638 effects models (GLMM) were used to test the relationship and models were ranked using An
639 Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC). Behaviour was classified using random forest models.
640 Outcomes from these models were then used to estimate daily behaviour and DEE from daily
641 acceleration data, which was then compared between the two enclosures.

642

643 **Results**

644 *Resting energy expenditure*

645 The mean (\pm SD) $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest or REE, measured when goats were standing on the treadmill
646 ($n=7$), was $69.38 (\pm 23.02)$ ml.min⁻¹. Measured $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest (ml min⁻¹) significantly increased
647 with individual body mass (Table 1). Body mass and age were highly correlated (Pearson's $r =$
648 7.58 , $p < 0.001$). There was a significant effect of temperature on measured $\dot{V}O_2$ tested using
649 a quadratic function (values derived from predicted values; Figure 1a; Table 1). $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest
650 was highest at the lowest temperature (97.13 ± 18.36 ml.min⁻¹ at 9.72°C) and decreased with
651 increasing temperature. Between 22°C and 30°C , $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest did not change with temperature
652 but increased by 0.03 ml min⁻¹ from 30.5°C (the upper critical limit) to the maximum recorded
653 temperature, 31.5°C . $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest did not change with humidity ($F_{7,8} = 0.13$, $p = 0.069$).

654 During measurements, food was provided to individuals while standing in the chamber;
655 therefore, some movement was expected during measurements. $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest increased with
656 body movement (DBA) measured by tri-axial accelerometers (Table 1; Figure 1b).

657

658 **Figure 1:** (a) Measured $\dot{V}O_2$ at rest (ml.min⁻¹) of standing pygmy goats at different ambient
659 temperatures ($^\circ\text{C}$) using a quadratic model and (b) dynamic body acceleration (DBA, g) using
660 a linear regression. The lines show the predicted relationships, the shaded areas show the 95%
661 confidence interval.

662

663 *Walking on level, positive and negative slopes of terrain*

664 The relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA was measured on the level (0° , $n = 4$), and a positive
665 slope ($+15^\circ$, $n = 3$) and negative slope (-15° , $n = 3$) while walking at different speeds on a
666 treadmill (Additional file 2). When walking on the level g - specific $\dot{V}O_2$ (i.e. $\dot{V}O_2$ at a specific
667 acceleration value) was 76.4 ± 14.05 ml.min⁻¹ at 0.093 g DBA. As DBA increased, $\dot{V}O_2$
668 increased by 6.42 ± 8.70 ml.min⁻¹ per 0.01 g acceleration (Table 1; Figure 2a). The relationship

669 between DBA and $\dot{V}O_2$ was significantly affected by slope (Table 1; Figure 2a). When waking
 670 on a positive slope g - specific $\dot{V}O_2$ was higher ($183.4 \pm 17.85 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ at 0.14 g) and the
 671 relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA was steeper; $\dot{V}O_2$ increased by $17.93 \pm 17.04 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ per
 672 0.01 g acceleration. On a negative slope, by contrast, $\dot{V}O_2$ was also higher than on the level
 673 terrain when considered as g - specific $\dot{V}O_2$ ($110.8 \pm 18.98 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ at 0.14 g acceleration) but
 674 the relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA did not differ significantly ($5.71 \pm 15.85 \text{ ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ per
 675 0.01 g acceleration; Figure 2a). DBA increased linearly with speed (Pearson's $r = 0.904$, $p <$
 676 0.0001) while goats were walking on the treadmill at different speeds and slopes (Figure 2b).
 677 Walking measurements obtained over a range of temperatures (11.7 to $27.8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) which was
 678 accounted for in the model.

Table 1: Top model set explaining energy expenditure associated with; (a) standing at different temperatures, (b) walking at different speeds on the level and (c) walking at different speeds for each slope, with all simpler nested models within $\Delta\text{AIC}_c = 6$ retained for inference.

Model	DBA	Temp	Temp ²	Weight	Sl:DBA	df	R ²	ΔAIC_c	Weight
(a) <i>Resting energy expenditure (REE)</i>	186.3	-7.96	0.15	3.11	NA	7	0.758	0.00	0.985
(b) <i>Effect of activity: walking</i>	455.5		-0.11	7.92	NA	5	0.806	0.00	0.509
	455.8	-4.32		7.87	NA	5	0.800	1.63	0.226
(c) <i>Effect of terrain: Walking on different slopes</i>	431.4		-0.11	8.90	+	9	0.874	0.00	0.491
	432.6	-4.42		8.88	+	9	0.875	0.84	0.323

Sl = terrain slope. The degrees of freedom (df), amount of variation explained (R²), AICc's and Akaike model weights are shown for each model.

680 **Figure 2:** (a) Predicted relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ ($\text{ml}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) and DBA (g) while pygmy goats
681 were walking on a treadmill at three different slopes; level (0°), negative slope (-15°), and
682 positive slope ($+15^\circ$). The shaded area shows the 95% confidence interval. (b) The correlation
683 between DBA (g) and walking speed ($\text{km}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$), while goats are walking on a treadmill at
684 different speeds and different slopes.

685

686 *Behavioural classification*

687 To classify behaviour, random forest models were built for data collected in each enclosure
688 using a subset of data with behavioural observations (Additional file 1). Classification accuracy
689 to identify five behaviours in enclosure A (level) was 93.2% and to identify five behaviours
690 including the slope of terrain in enclosure B (sloped) for two locomotion behaviours was 80.4%
691 (for further information see Additional file 2).

692

693 *Estimated daily behaviour and energy expenditure of animals in outdoor enclosures*

694 Overall, standing accounted for the largest proportion of time (0.45 ± 0.30), followed by resting
695 (0.38 ± 0.34) and eating (0.21 ± 0.17 ; Table 2). Locomotory behaviours made up the least
696 amount of time (walking = 0.019 ± 0.03 , running = 0.0011 ± 0.002). A total of 867 seconds
697 were marked as unknown behaviour, which accounted for 0.028% of total time. Using
698 predictions from measured $\dot{V}O_2$, energy expenditure for each behaviour was estimated using
699 models shown in Table 3 (Table 2; Figure 3; Additional file 1).

700 The proportion of time spent active (eating, walking or running) was higher in the level
701 enclosure during summer (enclosure A) than the sloped enclosure during winter (enclosure B)
702 and was not explained by mean daily temperature (Table 3; Figure 4a). There was no interaction

703 between enclosure and temperature. Mean estimated daily energy expenditure was 620.3 ± 119
704 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$. Daily energy expenditure was higher in the sloped terrain during winter than the level
705 enclosure during summer and with lower mean daily temperatures (Table 3; Figure 4b). The
706 effect of temperature was stronger than the effect of enclosure, which relates to the slope of
707 enclosure B. Temperature and daily energy expenditure were not correlated (Pearson's $r = 1.02$,
708 $p = 0.31$).

709

Table 2: Description of the energetic costs for each behaviour, the acceleration range observed for each behaviour and the line equations used to calculate the energetic costs of each behaviour.

Behaviour	Description of energetic cost	Acceleration range (g)	Equation
Standing	VO ₂ at rest measured in this study at different temperatures and accounting for DBA.	0 - 1.22	$y = 66.95 + 0.15T_a^2 + -7.97T_a + W + A$
Resting	Lying down has been measured to use 29% less energy than standing for goats (Dailey and Hobbs, 1989).	0 - 0.434	$y = (66.95 + 0.15T_a^2 + -7.97T_a + W + A) * 0.29$
Eating	$\dot{V}O_2$ at rest measured in this study at equivalent DBA.	0.218 - 1.01	$y = 66.95 + 0.15T_a^2 + -7.97T_a + W + A$
Walking	Walking $\dot{V}O_2$ measured in this study at different speeds and terrain slopes at equivalent DBA.	0.105 - 0.786	$y = -75.622 + \alpha_j + (642.345 + \gamma_i) * A + T_a + W$
Running	The additional cost of this gait was estimated as 2.5 time the energetic cost of walking (Parker, Robbins and Hanley, 1984).	0.786 - 1.67	$y = -75.622 + \alpha_j + (642.345 + \gamma_i) * A + T_a + W) * 2.5$
Other	Energetic cost not included.		$\alpha_l = 0, \gamma_l = 0$ $\alpha_p = -88.393, \gamma_p = 2072.780$ $\alpha_n = 11.853, \gamma_n = 227.434$

T_a = Ambient temperature, A = DBA, W = body weight, α_j = terrain slope (α_l = level, α_p = positive, α_n = negative), γ_i = terrain slope*DBA (γ_l = level, γ_p = positive, γ_n = negative)

710

711

Table 3: Top model set explaining the (a) proportion of time spent active and (b) daily energy expenditure, with all models within $\Delta AIC_c = 6$ and lower than all simpler nested models.

Model	Variables retained	K	R ²	AIC _c	ΔAIC_c	Weight
(a) Proportion Time Active	Enclosure + (ID) + (Date)	5	0.64	-430.7	0	0.82
	(ID) + (Date)	4	0.63	-427.6	3.09	0.18
(b) Daily Energy Expenditure	Enclosure x Temp + (ID) + (Date)	7	0.82	1264.7	0	0.966

The degrees of freedom for each model (df), amount of variation explained (R²), AIC_c and Akaike model weights are shown for each model.

712

713

714 **Figure 3:** Predicted energy expenditure for pygmy goats in each enclosure (A or B) for five
715 behaviours in relation to the strongest predictor for the respective model used: (a) Resting, (b)
716 Standing, (c) Eating, (d) Walking and (e) Running. Dashed lines represent prediction intervals.

717

718 **Figure 4:** (a) Proportion of time spent active and (b) mean daily energy expenditure in each
719 enclosure (A or B) for pygmy goats in addition to; (c) mean daily energy expenditure at
720 different temperatures in each enclosure.

721

722 Discussion

723 Biologging devices are frequently used to quantify behaviour and estimate the energy
724 expenditure of free-roaming animals [5,32,33,43]). In fact, the real importance of these devices
725 is that they seemingly have the potential to examine the intimate details of animal lives

726 remotely (e.g. [34,44]), including measurements of aspects of the environment that the
727 individuals experience [22]. It is therefore useful to think of these devices as an approach that
728 allows easy access to the relationship between activity and power use. However, given the
729 inherent complexities of measuring energy expenditure [7,5], quantifying behaviour [45,46]
730 and the interactions between these and the environment, including the role of power in incline
731 movement [25], superstrate [22] and thermal substitution [47], investigating and controlling for
732 limitations in the method is clearly essential.

733 Although the use of acceleration as a proxy for energy expenditure has been shown to
734 be a valuable tool after an association between DBA and energy expenditure was found in
735 cormorants [43], our study indicated that energy expenditure in these pygmy goats was higher
736 in was higher in the sloped terrain during the winter (enclosure B), than on the level terrain
737 during the summer months (enclosure A), despite animals having higher activity in A. This
738 could be explained both by the topography of the enclosures, because enclosure B was sloped,
739 and the temperatures, which were lower in enclosure B. A dramatic illustration is the way in
740 which *g*- specific energy expenditure varied in our studies with slope (Figure 2) which suggests
741 that when using DBA metrics to estimate power, aspect and gradient of the substrate must at
742 least be included.

743 The response of the pygmy goats to temperature (Figure 1a) is typical of that found in
744 mammals [8] and broadly reflect the characteristic U-shape of the power *versus* temperature
745 curve displaying the thermo-neutral zone at its lowest point [48]. In short, the increase in energy
746 expenditure at colder temperatures was explained by the energy cost of thermoregulation
747 [49,50], which requires individuals to spend more energy to maintain their core body
748 temperature to cope with the increasing rate of heat loss to the environment. Energy
749 expenditure also increases with higher temperatures [51,52] as was observed (Figure 1a), since
750 animals must engage in energy demanding processes to lose heat when the rate of heat transfer

751 between themselves and the environment is inadequate to maintain body temperature. Pygmy
752 goats were domesticated in Africa where temperatures are generally higher than in this study
753 and are able to tolerate high temperatures [41]. In our study, an increase in energy expenditure
754 was observed at the warmest temperatures measured. Thus, data from this study supports a
755 “thermo-neutral zone” between about 22 and 30.5 °C. This is in agreement with a previously
756 measured upper critical temperature measured by Luiting *et al.*, [53], but is higher than the
757 lower critical temperature of 9°C found for feral goats [8], although reasons for this are unclear.
758 Acclimation may play a role in observed TNZ, where the TNZ is dependant on the conditions
759 experienced by individuals prior to measurement [54].

760 The relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and temperature that we measured for animals at rest
761 (while standing) would, under normal conditions, also be affected by activity, with higher
762 activity, for example, displacing the characteristic power *versus* temperature curve to the left.
763 This is because muscular activity generates considerable heat [55] and this can mitigate what
764 would otherwise have to be paid for by inactive thermogenesis [56]. This thermal substitution
765 has been recognised as important in diving animals (e.g. [47]) and obviously complicates
766 estimates of energy expenditure of wild animals and in turn would apply to the pygmy goats in
767 this study that were predominantly in the outside enclosures. The details of how the process
768 would affect our overall estimates of energy expenditure in the two environments are
769 problematic to assess. The best approach would have been to adopt experimental protocols
770 with varying temperatures and varying degrees of activity to see how exercise-mediated $\dot{V}O_2$
771 affects the power *versus* temperature curve.

772 The increase in energy expenditure calculated for pygmy goats in enclosure B can also
773 be attributed to the sloped terrain, which increases the energetic costs of locomotion for animals
774 both ascending and descending the slopes compared to goats on the level terrain (Figure 2a).
775 Indeed, as temperature was accounted for (but see thermal substitution above), the main

776 difference between the two enclosures was the presence of a slope in enclosure B as well as a
777 seasonal effect. Energy expenditure during locomotion in caprids has been measured in a few
778 studies (e.g. [24]). However, the relationship with DBA has not previously been quantified,
779 which has the advantage in being able to enable estimates of energy expenditure for free-
780 moving individuals [37]. As with other studies [13], our work using pygmy goats on a treadmill
781 indicated the extent to which energy expenditure was higher on a positive slope, than on level
782 substrate (Figure 2a, Table 3). On a downhill slope, the energetic cost was marginally higher,
783 in accordance with Dailey and Hobbs [23], who found energy on downhill slopes overlapped
784 with measurements on level aspects, but contradicts Lachica *et al.* [24], who found lower power
785 use for animals moving down slopes. Power use on a descending slope is more complex than
786 for that of an ascending slope: When animals move uphill they have to provide energy to
787 overcome gravity manifest in potential energy change (given by $PE = mgh$, where m is the
788 mass, g is the gravitational constant and h is the height increment), so the rate at which energy
789 must be provided depends directly on the speed and the extent of the incline (cf. Figure 2).
790 However, the power use for descending a slope should theoretically initially decrease at
791 shallow slopes as the cost of locomotion is initially partially subsidized by the gain in energy
792 from the realised potential energy, followed by an increase in power as the animal works to
793 brake descent at steeper slopes [25,57]. This phenomenon is clear when descent slope is varied
794 by small increments (e.g. Fancy and White [58]) but is obviously complicated when slope
795 increments are large, as in our case and other animal studies [25]. Overall, it is clear that there
796 are varying relationships between cost of transport and slope of terrain across species [25],
797 presumably as a consequence of the specifics of the animal morphologies [59].

798 Terrain type affects behaviour and energy expenditure beyond just slope because, for
799 example, whether the environment underfoot is more or less compliant changes the costs of
800 locomotion [23,60] (also demonstrated in humans cf. [61]). We were not able to correct for the

801 effects of substrate compliancy in our two enclosures, which were tarmac and grass, but we
802 note that Bidder *et al.* [60] measured an increase in $\dot{V}O_2$ of 9.1% on tarmac and 17.7% on grass,
803 compared to exercise on a treadmill in humans. This suggests estimates of energy expenditure
804 using the treadmill might underestimate the true energy expenditure although this likely also
805 depends on the precise elasticity of the treadmill substrate. For these reasons, we appreciate
806 that our own estimates of energy expenditure of the freely roaming goats are unlikely to be
807 particularly accurate but they are, we believe, a step towards a more refined approach and will
808 help as part of the overall framework attempting to determine power use by animals operating
809 in different energy landscapes [22].

810 Finally, activity levels, measured by the proportion of time predicted in active
811 behaviours compared to inactivity, were higher in the first enclosure (A). Although activity
812 levels may vary seasonally due to temperature [16,62], temperature did not explain the
813 proportion of time active observed in this study. It was accounted for by the enclosure, which
814 may be linked to a seasonal shift in environmental conditions, as enclosure A was measured in
815 summer, and enclosure B in winter. The energetic costs of thermoregulation may be moderated
816 in colder temperatures due to heat produced through activity. The individuals in this study may
817 not respond in the same way as free-living mammals, because our study animals had access to
818 shelters which they could utilise resulting in lower energetic costs to thermoregulation.
819 Ungulates living in seasonal environments may reduce their T_b to reduce the energetic costs of
820 thermoregulation [16,62], which is important to consider when estimating energetic costs of
821 free-living animals. Although temperature was measured on the animal-attached devices, other
822 environmental conditions that affect thermoregulation, such as wind speed and precipitation,
823 were not taken into consideration.

824

825 **Conclusions**

826 In this study, the rate of oxygen consumption was measured using indirect calorimetry and
827 enabled the prediction of energy expenditure using biologging data that included tri-axial
828 acceleration and temperature. Although measures of tri-axial acceleration have been shown to
829 be a useful proxy for energy expenditure in free-ranging animals, acceleration alone cannot
830 account for environmental variation. Furthermore, additional information required for making
831 predictions about behaviour, energy expenditure and an animals' substrate and aspect in an
832 animals' environment will improve what can be interpreted from biologging data. Measuring
833 behaviour and energy expenditure can improve understanding of how species will survive in a
834 changing environment, and provide calibration for estimates of energy expenditure. Future
835 research should account for different elevations in terrain, including variation in substrate and
836 as well as slope or aspect such as would be encountered in species' natural habitat (e.g. species
837 that climb rocks such as ibex).

838

839 **Methods**

840 *Study subjects*

841 Nine female African pygmy goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*) housed at Belfast Zoo were used
842 in this study (Table 4). Individuals were aged between 3 and 10 years old and weighed between
843 13 and 32 kg (mean \pm SD = 25.9 \pm 6.3 kg). They were housed in their normal enclosure
844 comprising a farm building with a level concrete yard and areas of wood mulch (area = 163
845 m², 16.6 x 7.3 m) (enclosure A). Experiments took place in an adjacent pen within the same
846 building during the spring (April to July) and summer (March to June) of 2018 and 2019 to
847 enable measurement of a range of temperatures (T_a ranged from 9.7 to 31.6 °C).

848 Daily behaviour was measured using animal-attached tags (biologgers) in both
849 enclosure A in May 2018 and a second enclosure (B) in November 2017. For logistical reasons,
850 it proved impossible to standardize protocols so that animals were studied in both enclosures
851 during one season. Enclosure B comprised a sloping grass paddock (slope = 18%, area = 2210
852 m², 50.1 x 35.3 m) surrounded by hedges, with a small heated building adjacent. Sampling in
853 each enclosure was opportunistic as a result of husbandry, and therefore both seasons could not
854 be measured in each enclosure. It was assumed that seasonal variation in metabolic rate was
855 accounted for in respirometry measurement because they were conducted over multiple
856 seasons.

Table 4: Body mass, age and indirect calorimetry measurements of each goat used in the study. Only four individuals could be trained to walk on the treadmill sufficiently well to take measurements of walking energy expenditure (G02, G05, G06 and G07). For more details see Additional file 2.

Goat ID	Age	Weight	Type and number of measurements
G01	6	31.4 ± 2.5	REE (n = 14)
G02	4	23.4 ± 1.6	REE (n = 20); Walking (n = 5, speed = 0.8 – 1.3 km h ⁻¹ , terrain slope = 0°)
G03	6	31.5 ± 0.1	-
G04	10	28.7 ± 0.7	REE (n = 12)
G05	7	23.8 ± 1.8	REE (n = 13); Walking (n = 29, speed = 0.8 – 3.0 km h ⁻¹ , terrain slope = -15°, 0°, 15°)
G06	2	15.1 ± 1.7	REE (n = 21); Walking (n = 34, speed = 0.8 – 2.6 km h ⁻¹ , terrain slope = -15°, 0°, 15°)
G07	2	17.5 ± 2.3	REE (n = 18); Walking (n = 20, speed = 0.8 – 2.2 km h ⁻¹ , terrain slope = -15°, 0°, 15°)
G08	7	31.2 ± 0.1	-
G09	5	30.6 ± 0.6	REE (n = 10)

Indirect calorimetry measurements were not obtained for G03 and G08 because they could not be trained to stand in the chamber.

858 *Accelerometry data collection*

859 Individuals were equipped with a collar-mounted ‘Daily diary’ tag [44] which incorporated a
860 tri-axial accelerometer which recorded at a frequency of 40 Hz. Tags also measured magnetic
861 compass heading via a tri-axial magnetometer, as well as temperature and barometric pressure.
862 Each device was powered by a 3.6V lithium battery (LS 14250, Saft, France; 147 mm x 25
863 mm; 9 g) encased in a plastic housing (combined mass 15.2 g) and sealed with Tesa tape (No.
864 4651; Tesa AG, Hamburg, Germany). Devices were attached to the collar on the ventral side
865 using Tesa tape and an additional weight (metal nuts; 15 g) attached to ensure the device
866 remained in position ventrally. Collar-mounted devices weighed between 135 g and 235 g
867 dependant on the collar size (< 1% of body mass) and were fitted to be within +3 cm of neck
868 circumference ensuring accurate measurement of body acceleration [63].

869 Devices were oriented so that the y-axis corresponded to ‘heave’ (dorso-ventral
870 motion), x-axis to ‘sway’ (lateral motion) and z-axis to ‘surge’ (anterio-posterior motion).
871 Before deployment, each device was calibrated for the exact time, direction of the axis,
872 accelerometer and magnetometer offsets.

873

874 *Measuring the rate of oxygen consumption: Indirect calorimetry setup*

875 An open-circuit indirect calorimetry system was used to measure $\dot{V}O_2$, a measure of energy
876 expenditure with the assumption of no anaerobic respiration [37]. A treadmill intended to
877 exercise dogs (Professional Fit Fur Life Treadmill, Surrey, UK; dimension 180x55 cm), with
878 a respirometry chamber built on top made of polycarbonate sheet connected with aluminium
879 panels was used (Figure 5). The chamber size was adjustable: For pygmy goat measurements,
880 a chamber volume of 440 L was used (80 cm high by 55 cm wide by 100 cm long). Eight fans

881 were spaced across one side of the chamber to ensure complete mixing of air within the
882 chamber. The setup was tested for leaks using nitrogen leak tests [64].

883

884 **Figure 5:** Schematic diagram of the open-circuit indirect calorimetry system used to measure
885 oxygen consumption ($\dot{V}O_2$), showing the air being pumped in by the air pump (1) measured by
886 a flow meter and the air subsample being drawn out, through the drying chamber by the FoxBox
887 Respirometry System. For the highest flow rates, an additional air pump (2) was used which
888 had a built-in flow meter (not shown; Flowkit, Sable Systems, Las Vegas, USA). Temperature,
889 barometric pressure and humidity were also measured within the chamber.

890

891 Fresh air, from outside the building, was pushed through the system using an air pump
892 (Wob-L Piston Series 2660, Rietschle Thomas Sheboygan Inc., Wisconsin, USA) at a range of
893 flow rates (20-150 L/min) because the rate that oxygen declines in the chamber depends on the
894 size and activity state of the subject [65]. Flow rate was measured using a variable area
895 flowmeter (Platon NGX Glass Variable Area Flowmeter, Platon, Saint Etienne, France) before
896 entering the chamber. Inflow temperature was controlled and measured using a temperature
897 control unit (Sable Systems, Las Vegas, USA), prior to measuring the flow rate, to ensure a
898 consistent temperature within the chamber and to prevent chamber temperature increasing due
899 to heat from the air pump. A subsample of air was drawn from the chamber at a rate of 350
900 ml.min⁻¹, passed through a drying column (Drierite, DRIERITE, Ohio, USA) to remove water
901 vapour from the air being sampled, and analysed to determine the relative proportion of oxygen
902 and carbon dioxide (FoxBox Respirometry System, Sable Systems, Las Vegas, USA). Flow
903 into the drying column and analyser could be diverted so that it was sourced from fresh air (i.e.
904 from outside), to baseline the measured relative concentration of oxygen. For each

905 measurement, the entire system was turned on and allowed to equilibrate for one hour. Relative
906 oxygen concentration of the chamber gas was monitored until the analyser drift was deemed
907 negligible (<0.001 % O₂ per min; [66]). Data were recorded every 10 s using the FoxBox
908 internal memory and downloaded to a PC after the measurement. Temperature within the
909 chamber was dependant on T_a and was measured at three points throughout the chamber and
910 once outside the chamber (DTM-307B Dual digital thermometer, TECPEL, Taiwan and TP60S
911 Wireless Thermometer Hygrometer, ThermPro, Toronto, Canada). Humidity and pressure
912 were measured once within the chamber (Digital altimeter, Geo-master, Tianjin, China). The
913 fraction of carbon dioxide in excurrent gas was monitored to ensure the drying agent, Drierite,
914 was not exhausted. The drying agent was replaced with recharged agent prior to exhaustion.

915 Analyser drift was assumed to be linear over time and was accounted for by calculating
916 the percentage drift, which is the change in incurrent %O₂ (F_iO₂) from the start to the end. The
917 percentage drift per minute was then added to %O₂ (*raw*F_eO₂). To calculate the %O₂ corrected
918 for drift (F_eO₂), the following equation was used (see 64);

$$919 \quad F_e O_2 = raw F_e O_2 + \left[\left(\frac{\Delta F_i O_2}{\Delta time} \right) \times time \ elapsed \right] \quad (1)$$

920 $\dot{V}O_2$ was calculated by the rate of air flow (L/min) into the chamber (FR_i) by the difference in
921 the incurrent %O₂ (F_iO₂) and drift corrected excurrent %O₂ (F_eO₂) in the chamber. Flow was
922 corrected to standard temperature and pressure using;

$$923 \quad \dot{V}O_2 = FR_i \left[\frac{F_i O_2 - F_e O_2}{100 - F_e O_2} \right] \quad (2)$$

924

925 *Indirect calorimetry measurements*

926 For resting measurements (n = 103, see Table 4), each individual was trained to stand within a
927 respirometry chamber for ~50 min following the provision of hay within the chamber. For

928 walking measurements (n = 88, see Table 4), four individuals were trained to walk on the
929 treadmill within the chamber at different speeds (0.8 – 3.0 km/h) and angle of slope (-15°, 0°,
930 +15°) for up to 30 min (Table 4). All training was conducted using positive reinforcement
931 training techniques [66] over a period of two months, and individuals were motivated using
932 positive reinforcement (with a portion of their daily food) during measurements. Initially,
933 individuals were trained to stand in the chamber. Then, they were trained to walk on the
934 treadmill with the chamber door open, by gradually starting the treadmill for short periods.
935 These periods were gradually increased until they walked for the desired period. The chamber
936 door was closed when individuals were confident walking on the treadmill. Subjects were given
937 ample time, between 5 and 30 minutes, prior to measurements to ensure they were calm. If any
938 sign of stress was exhibited, such as restlessness, vocalisation, or shaking, before or during a
939 measurement, the measurement was abandoned. Individuals were weighed before and after
940 each measurement using an animal weighing scale (Adam Equipment, Milton Keynes, UK).

941 For each measurement, the system was turned on and allowed to equilibrate for one
942 hour, during which oxygen concentration within the chamber was monitored until analyser drift
943 was deemed negligible (see above). For resting measurements, subjects were placed in the
944 chamber, and typically the system would take ~20 min to reach a steady state. A measurement
945 was taken for 10 min after this steady state was reached and gas conditions were stable. After
946 10 min, the analyser reading was set to the ambient concentration of 20.95% O₂ by drawing
947 fresh outside air into the chamber for ~5 min and then returned to sampling chamber air, to
948 compensate for analyser drift (Lighton, 2008). The system typically took 30 min to return to
949 steady state with the animal inside the chamber, and a second measurement was taken for 10
950 min. The animal was removed, and the measurement finished when a steady state was reached
951 with an empty chamber.

952 For measurements taken whilst subjects were walking, the system would take ~12 min
953 to reach steady state chamber oxygen concentration. Animals are assumed to be in a
954 physiological steady state after 3 min of exercise [37,68]. A measurement was taken for 10 min
955 at steady state, before the animal was allowed to stop and leave the chamber. Chamber air was
956 continually measured and the system typically took 30 min to return to steady state. The animal
957 walked at speeds between 0.8 km.h⁻¹ and 3.0 km.h⁻¹ changing at 0.1 km.h⁻¹ increments on the
958 level (level 0°) and at different slopes (positive 15° and negative -15°) dependant on their
959 ability.

960

961 *Acceleration measurement*

962 For each indirect calorimetry measurement, individuals were equipped with a collar-mounted
963 ‘Daily Diary’ tags as described above. Static acceleration (see Additional file 1) was calculated
964 as a measure of body acceleration, using the running mean of raw acceleration over 2 seconds,
965 and subtracted from the raw acceleration to give dynamic acceleration. The vectorial sum of
966 the dynamic acceleration for the three axes was calculated giving VeDBA (hereafter referred
967 to as DBA [5,69]):

$$968 \quad VeDBA = \sqrt{(A_x^2 + A_y^2 + A_z^2)} \quad (3)$$

969

970 Additionally, each individual was equipped with a collar-attached tag, as described above, for
971 a mean of 4.7 days (SD = ± 1.1 days) in enclosure A and 5.6 days (SD = ± 3.4 days) in enclosure
972 B. Daily acceleration data were selected from 6 hours after deployment and 2 hours before
973 removal.

974

975 *Behavioural classification*

976 To create daily behaviour profiles, each individual was video-recorded (Canon PowerShot
977 SX720 HS; Canon Inc, Japan), and the start and end time of each behaviour was time-stamped
978 using BORIS software [70]. Tri-axial accelerometry and magnetometry data were time-
979 matched with video observations at a resolution of 1 second. Five behaviours were selected
980 and individual goats recorded for a total of 10.9 hrs (mean \pm SD = 38.5 \pm 16.7 mins, Table 2).
981 Additional behaviours (e.g. aggression, scratching, shaking) that were observed for less than 1
982 second were grouped as 'Other'. Behaviours were classified for each enclosure; enclosure A
983 was level terrain with no slope whereas, enclosure B was sloped terrain, thus the slope of terrain
984 for locomotion behaviours was included in observations to build the model (Table 2).

985 From the raw acceleration and magnetometry axes, 14 variables that describe both the
986 posture and body movement of an individual were calculated (Additional file 1). Random forest
987 models, an extension of classification trees, were used to classify behaviour using the package
988 *randomForest* [71,72]. To build the model the data were randomly split, 60% of the observed
989 data set was used as a training set and 40% as a validation set. Random forest models use
990 classification trees (500 in this model) by building a hierarchy of decision rules to classify
991 observations [73]. Observations are subdivided at each classification node until the Gini index
992 does not decrease, and the mean Gini decrease gives the importance of each predicting variable
993 [71]. The error rate, including the Out-of-bag error estimates, were checked. Confusion
994 matrices were created using the validation dataset to validate the model and the precision and
995 recall of each behaviour were calculated (Additional file 1).

996

997 *Daily behaviour and energy expenditure*

998 Using behavioural classification template behaviours were identified for the daily acceleration
999 data to identify the behaviour of goats for each second throughout the day. The proportion of
1000 time spent conducting each behaviour per day was subsequently calculated. To measure
1001 activity levels, behaviours were classed as active (walking, running and eating) or inactive
1002 (standing and resting). The proportion of time spent in active behaviours was then calculated.

1003 Using the daily behaviour budget, energy expenditures were assigned to each
1004 behaviour, using both behaviour and DBA. Behaviours were categorised as stationary or
1005 locomotory. A relationship between DBA and $\dot{V}O_2$ was assigned to each behaviour, using
1006 resting measurements for stationary behaviours and walking measurements for locomotory
1007 behaviours. Using model predictions, energy expenditure was assigned to each behaviour using
1008 the models predicting the relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA, including the effect of body
1009 weight, temperature and slope of terrain for locomotion behaviour. DBA was checked for each
1010 behaviour. Where the model predicted DBA outside the range observed for behavioural
1011 classification, behaviour was marked as unknown. For behaviours that were not directly
1012 measured in this study, the difference in energy expenditure compared to measured behaviour
1013 was used to estimate energy expenditure of those behaviours.

1014 To calculate DEE ($\text{kJ}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$), the time spent in each behaviour was multiplied by the
1015 energetic costs of each behaviour which was then multiplied by the calorific equivalent of 20.51
1016 $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{L}^{-1} \text{O}_2$ consumed, assuming an RQ of 0.90 [74].

1017

1018 *Statistical analyses*

1019 *Indirect calorimetry measurements*

1020 All analyses were conducted using R version 3.6.3 [75]. General Linear models (GLM) or
1021 generalised linear mixed models (GLMM) were used to: 1) assess the effect of temperature on

1022 REE; 2) assess the relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA and; 3) test the effect of positive and
1023 negative slopes on the relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA. To investigate the relationship
1024 between temperature and REE, a GLMM was used with $\dot{V}O_2$ as the response variable.
1025 Temperature, humidity, body mass and DBA were included as fixed effects and the model used
1026 a quadratic term of temperature to test for a non-linear effect. Goat ID was included as a random
1027 effect. The collinearity between body mass and age was quantified using a Pearson's
1028 correlation.

1029 To model the relationship between $\dot{V}O_2$ and DBA, a GLM was used with $\dot{V}O_2$ as the
1030 response and temperature, humidity, body mass and DBA as fixed effects. To measure the
1031 effect of terrain slope, a similar model was built which included terrain slope (angle of
1032 treadmill) as a fixed effect and an interaction term between DBA and terrain slope. A random
1033 effect of individual was not included in either model due to the number of goats measured (n=4
1034 and n=3, respectively). The correlation between DBA and speed was checked for walking
1035 measurements on the level terrain and two terrain slopes. The global models were simplified
1036 using the *dredge* function in the R package "MuMin" [76] which uses AIC_c to assess the best
1037 fit model. Models within $\Delta AIC_c \leq 6$ were retained for inference and the simplest model was
1038 selected [77]. Model residuals were checked for normality.

1039

1040 *Daily behaviour and energy expenditure analysis*

1041 To explain the proportion of time spent active and daily energy expenditure, two separate
1042 GLMM's were built. In both models, individual ID and date were included as random factors
1043 and enclosure (A or B) and temperature were included as fixed effects. Model residuals were
1044 checked for normality and AIC_c was used to select the best model. The collinearity between
1045 enclosure and temperature was quantified using a Pearson's correlation.

1046

1047 **Supplementary information**

1048 **Additional file 1:** Information for each individual goat included in the study including their
1049 body weight and age, the respirometry measurements taken in the study, and the values
1050 predicted or measured for each individual in each enclosure. An ethogram of all the behaviours
1051 with additional details.

1052 **Additional file 2:** Input and output of the random forest models used to classify behaviour:
1053 error rates including Out-of-bag error estimate, mean Gini decrease of each predicting variable,
1054 confusion matrix of predicted and observed behaviours, and precision and recall of each
1055 behaviour.

1056 **Additional file 3:** Respirometry measurements including individual body weight, temperature,
1057 DBA, walking speed and measurement type.

1058

1059 **Abbreviations**

1060 T_a : Ambient temperature; T_b : Body temperature; ODBA: Overall dynamic body acceleration;
1061 VeDBA: Vectorial dynamic body acceleration; DBA: Dynamic body acceleration; $\dot{V}O_2$: Rate
1062 of oxygen consumption; REE: Resting energy expenditure; GLM: General linear model;
1063 GLMM: Generalised linear mixed model

1064

1065 **Declarations**

1066 *Ethics approval and consent to participate*

1067 This study was approved by the Queens University Belfast ethics committee (QUB-BS-AREC-
1068 19-004) and Belfast Zoo.

1069 *Consent for publication*

1070 Not applicable

1071 *Availability of data and materials*

1072 Respirometry measurements are available as an additional file. The daily acceleration data are
1073 available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

1074 *Competing interests*

1075 The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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1078 *Authors' contributions*

1079 ED, NM and DMS conceived the study design. ED collected and analysed the data. ED drafted
1080 the manuscript. PS and RPW contributed to writing the manuscript. All authors provided
1081 comments and approved the final manuscript.

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1089

1090

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