# TOPIC 2. CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

The cardiovascular system is responsible for the distribution of oxygen and nutrients to the cells throughout the body. The role of the heart in pumping blood has been known for a long time, and the exchange of  $O_2$ and  $CO_2$  at the respiratory surfaces of the lungs is an important function associated with the flow of blood. The number of beats per minute and the volume of blood pumped are both dependent on the level of activity and other factors affecting the oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations in the blood.

The cardiac cycle may be described by beginning with ventricular systole, or contractions of the two ventricles. As these contractions occur, blood is forced out of the ventricles and into the pulmonary and systemic circiuts. The two atria, or receiving chambers of the heart, are in diastole, or a relaxed condition, and fill with blood that has been propelled through the arterial system to the venous system that leads to the atria. As the atria are filled with blood and ventricular diastole occurs, the ventricles are filled with blood from the atria in preparation for the next ventricular systole.

The amount of blood pumped with each cardiac cycle is dependent on the strength of ventricular systole. As the heart beats faster, stroke volumes may increase, but not necessarily in direct proportion to changes in heart rate. The total amount of blood present also affects the strength of the circulation pattern as decreased volumes will likely result in less flow from the atria to the ventricules and throughout the systemic circulation.

The circulating blood is an active nutrient and oxygen transport system. The chemistry of the blood is important because it determines how well the blood functions as a medium for the transport of oxygen and nutrients to the sites of metabolism. The red cell fraction of the circulating blood, for example, is important because oxygen is carried primarily by the chemical combination of oxygen with hemoglobin. Thus an anemic animal is as metabolically efficient as one with higher red cell and hemoglobin concentrations, and will consequently be less able to withstand the effects of cold weather, parasites, and other factors of metabolic and ecological importance.

Evaluations of heart rates when the animals are involved in different activities at different times of the year, the stroke volumes of each heart beat, the total amounts of blood present in the animal, red cell functions, chemical characteristics of the blood are all of potential importance when estimating the metabolic potentials of free-ranging animals.

### LITERATURE CITED

McCauley, W. J. 1971. Vertebrate physiology. W. B. Saunders, Co., Philadelphia, PA. 422 pp.

# REFERENCES, TOPIC 2

# CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

# BOOKS

				YEAR
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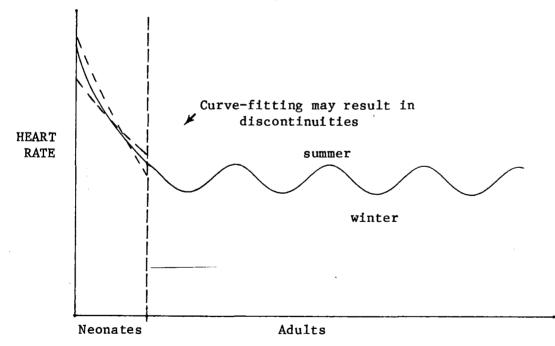
### UNIT 2.1: HEART RATES

Electrocardiogram equipment, or even stethoscopes, are not standard equipment in the typical wildlife laboratory. Yet the heart rate is one of the first things to be checked when evaluating the health status of a person because it is a very important vital sign. Earlier societies considered the heart to be the center of life. Neglect of this very important organ and its vital signs in research on wild ruminants must be attributed to difficulties associated with cardiovascular research and not to a lack of importance of heart functions. Fortunately, radio telemetry now makes such research possible.

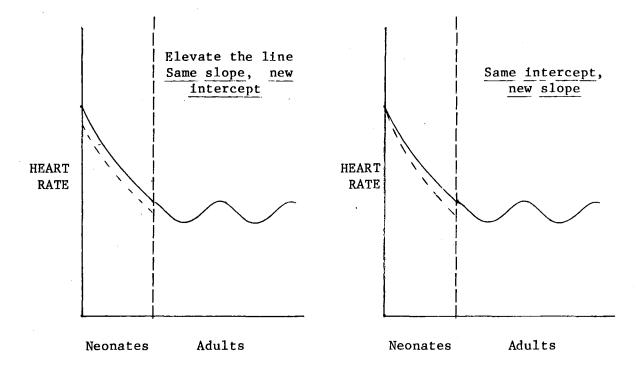
### HEART RATES IN RELATION TO AGE

A heart rate pattern consistently observed in all species is that of a rapid decline in heart rates in the first few days or weeks or life. Heart rates of neonates are high, and they drop rapidly, logarithmically, until the rates characteristic of adults are reached. This shift from the high rates characteristic of neonates to the seasonally-variable characteristics of adult deer is observed by the end of the suckling period.

Curve-fitting of neonate and adult heart rates should be done without discontinuities where the two patterns merge, just as weight equations for different phases of growth were merged, as illustrated below.



Individual variations, experimental artifacts, and random errors contribute to mathematical discontinuities. Living animals exhibit a smooth transition in these functions from day to day, however, and mathematical representations must reflect that. The equations may have to be adjusted slightly to link directly with the equation for the other group. Adjustments are easily made in the equation for the young by elevating the entire equation, or by curve-fitting just two points--the intercept, a, and the point where the equation for the young merges with the adult equation. The adjustments illustrated below show how the equations can be merged without discontinuities.



Heart rates of the adults of large species are slower than adult heart rates of smaller species. This is characteristic of a wide range of species; very high heart rates are observed in some small animals, such as shrews, and very slow rates in large animals, such as elephants. It is apparently true for wild ruminants too. Elk have slower heart rates than deer, and moose are expected to have slower rates than elk. Data are too limited to derive mathematical expressions of heart rates in relation to the weights of different species, however.

## HEART RATES IN RELATION TO ACTIVITY LEVELS

There is a general pattern of increased heart rates with increased physical activity. Heart rates in five major activities increase in the following order: bedded, standing, foraging, walking, and running. It would be very surprising if a species or even an individual showed a different pattern. Accelerations due to fright responses may occur in any activity, however, and upset the patterns based on physical activity alone.

The use of radio telemetry techniques for transmitting heart rates of unrestrained animals in their chosen activities provides the best information when activity patterns, other animals, and other stimuli are monitored concurrently. This has been done during experiments on white-tailed deer at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory. Insights gained in such carefullycontrolled conditions are useful when interpreting variations observed in free-ranging animals.

### HEART RATES IN RELATION TO TIME OF YEAR

Measurements of heart rates of wild ruminants must be made carefully over time. Heart rates of white-tailed deer varied during the year with the highest rates observed in the summer when metabolism was highest, and lowest in the winter when metabolism was lowest (Moen 1978). Sine wave variations in adult heart rates are illustrated on the previous page, showing highest heart rates in the summer and lowest in the winter.

The higher heart rate: higher metabolism pattern was evident in all activities, as heart rates were seasonally higher when the deer were walking than when they were standing, and higher when standing than bedded. The higher heart rates, and metabolism too, reflect a synchrony between range resources and animal requirements. When range resources are down, animal requirements are down, and when resources are up (during the growing season), productive functions rise to their highest levels. This is ecologically very reasonable, and represents a distinct energy conservation adaptation.

### HEART RATES IN RELATION TO TRANSIENT STIMULI

While there are general heart-rate patterns in relation to age, weight, and time of year, there are also many variations due to transient stimuli. Many of these transients are very natural; the approach of a dam to its fawn may cause tachycardia, or a marked acceleration in the heart rate of the fawn. Rain and thunder also cause tachycardia; as do other animals and other natural noises. (Moen and Chevalier 1977). Sometimes heart rates are slowed; bradycardia is a characteristic fright response in neonates. Heart rate responses of whitetail fawns to recorded wolf howls included both tachycardia and bradycardia, as well as a patterned response to howl frequency and loudness (Moen et al. 1978).

The dynamics of the environment and their effects on heart rates are very great. Overall heart rate patterns in relation to both activity and time of year were observed at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory because heart rates were recorded only when the experimental animals were being observed, relating behavior to heart rates. Further, deviations in the heart rates due to transient stimuli were also evaluated and the undisturbed heart rates in different activities determined. These kinds of data collections and analyses rather than strictly timed measurements at arbitrary intervals, were very important factors in recognizing the sine wave patterns described in Moen (1978). Another important factor in the successful recognition of patterns over the annual cycle was the careful observations and measurements on several animals for 24-hour or larger periods over several successive annual cycles. Attention to these details with animals that were treated as naturally as possible was very important in the synthesis of relationships into whole pictures, unencumbered by deviations due to experimental mathematical or statistical procedures.

# LITERATURE CITED

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- Moen, A. N., M. A. DellaFera, A. L. Hiller, and B. A. Buxton. 1978. Heart rates of white-tailed deer fawns in response to recorded wolf howls. Can. J. Zool. 56(5):1207-1210.

# REFERENCES, UNIT 2.1

#### HEART RATES

### SERIALS

CODEN	VO-NU	BEPA	ENPA	ANIM	KEY WORDS AUTHORS	YEAR
AHEMA	3	250	261	odvi	maj arteries, shoulder,arm bisaillon,a	1974
					<pre>serum prot, normal, arthri sikes,d: hayes,f/ blood seru, arthrit reumat sikes,d; kistner/</pre>	
AKASA	30	50	51	odvi	electroph pattern, 2 subsp jackman,gs; garne	1976
CBPAB	62a-4	885	888	odvi	chngs hrtrate, grwth, act jacobsen,nk	1979
					heart rate, fawn, wolf how moen, an; dellafe/ amb temp eff, physio trait holter,jb; urban/	
JOMAA	602	343	349	odvi	alarm bradycardia in fawns jacobsen, n	1979
JWMAA	373	413	417	odvi	seasonal heart rates, meta moen, an	1978
SOVEA	261	51	58	odvi	electrocardiogram, wh-t de szabuniewicz,m; /	1972

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR CBCPA 61A-- 43 48 ceel oxygen utiliza elk calves cohen,y:robbins,/ 1977 JOMAA 49--4 790 791 ceel electrocard, rocky mountai herin,ra 1968 ZEJAA 4---4 171 177 ceel [regulation of blood pres] jaczewski,z; ja/ 1958

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JEBPA 12--4 347 349 alal rata, card comp emot stres roshchevskii,mp/ 1976

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS------ AUTHORS----- YEAR APSSA 396-- 96 96 rata blood circulation, finnish hirvonen,1; jar/ 1973 AVSPA 57--- 1 18 rata topograph, internal organs engebretsen,rh 1975 LBANA 13--3 183 186 rata electcardiogram, reindeer timisjarvi,j; / 1979 CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JZAMD 1---2 20 22 bibi odvi, electrocrdgrph obsrv jankus, ef; good, a 1970

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR VETRA 97-12 230 231 ovca electrocrdiogram, big-horn rezakhani,a; edj/ 1975

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JOMAA 39--4 554 559 obmo serologica evid, relations moody,pa 1958

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ATRLA 12-32 1275 1276 bibo electrocardi, experi death nagorski,f; grodz 1967

# CHAPTER 6, WORKSHEET 2.1a

# Heart rates of white-tailed deer fawns (odvi) in relation to age and activity

Heart rates of whitetail fawns, measured at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory with a radio telemetry system, are related to activities and the age of the fawn. There is a rapid decline in the heart rates in different activities shortly after birth, and the rates continue to decline until 105 days of age. After this age, the heart rates vary seasonally, without regard to the age of the deer, and the equations for adult deer apply. Equations for predicting heart rates for fawns from 1-105 AGDA in five activities are listed below.

Activity	Equation				
Bedded	BHRM = 2	50 -	35.5	ln	AGDA
Standing	SHRM = 3	06 -	43.8	<b>1</b> n	AGDA
Walking	WHRM = 3	90 -	59.1	1n	AGDA
Foraging	FHRM = 3	21 -	45.9	1n	AGDA
Running	RHRM = 3	83 -	40.0	ln	AGDA

Plot and label the heart rates (HERA) for each of the activities on the next page. Note especially the heart rates at AGDA = 105 (JDAY = 256 if birth date = 151) comparing them to rates calculated in WORKSHEET 2.1b for adult deer on JDAY 256.

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AGDA = 0 - 030 - 060 - 0	$\frac{1}{90} - 1\frac{1}{20} - 1\frac{1}{5}$		$\frac{1}{240}$ $\frac{1}{270}$ $\frac{1}{300}$
JDAY =	256 286	316 346	11 41 71

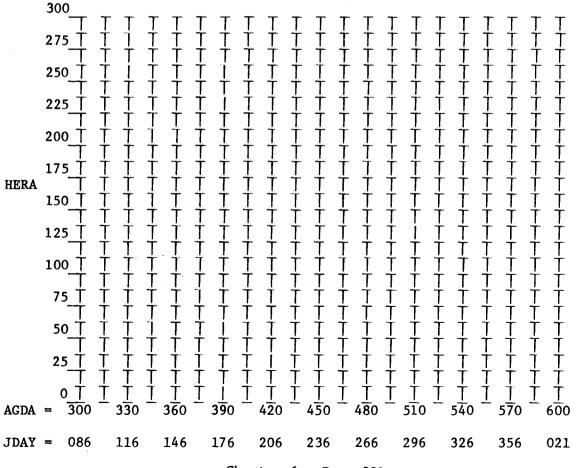
# CHAPTER 6, WORKSHEET 2.1b

# Heart rates of adult white-tailed deer (odvi) in relation to activity and time of year

Heart rates of adult white-tailed deer have been studied for several years at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory, Cornell University. Equations for bedding, (BHRM), standing, (SHRM), walking, (WHRM), foraging (FHRM), and running (RHRM) heart rates per minute given in Moen (1978:722) are:

BHRM =	[14.6878 sin [(JDAY)(0.9863) + 226] - 0.1640]	+ 72
SHRM =	$[17.2907 \sin [(JDAY)(0.9863) + 226] + 0.4346]$	+ 86
WHRM =	[15.5409  sin  [(JDAY)(0.9863) + 226] - 0.3256]	+ 102
FHRM =	[18.7914 sin [(JDAY)(0.9863) + 226] + 0.1934]	+ 90
RHRM =	[32.0023 sin [(JDAY)(0.9863) + 226] + 14.7795]	+ 155

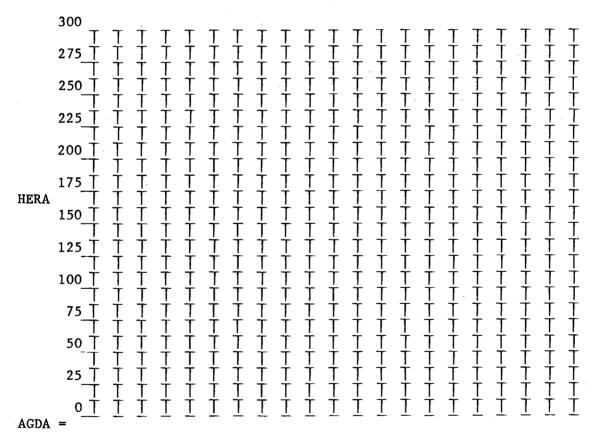
Plot the heart rates for AGDA 105 to 300 on the grid in WORKSHEET 2.1a, demonstrating how they merge with the results of the calculations in WORKSHEET 2.1a. Continue plotting heart rates below for each of these activities through AGDA = 600 and JDAY = 21. Plotting may be continued on the back of this page in the grid provided.



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Moen, A. N. 1978. Seasonal changes in heart rates, activity, metabolism, and forage intake of white-tailed deer. J. Wildl. Manage. 42(4):715-738.

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JDAY =

# UNIT 2.2: STROKE VOLUME

The stroke voume is a characteristic of ventricular systole, but it is influenced by more factors than the heart itself. The amount of blood circulating depends on three major factors: the cardiac output, the general activity of the animal, and the peripheral resistance to blood flow (Hoar 1966:168-169). The cardiac output, or blood pumped per unit time, is a function of the ventricular volume, the force of the contraction, and the total blood volume in the body. The amount of blood in the heart, up to the limit of ventricular volume, is affected by the amount of venous blood returned. Muscular exercise results in an increase in the venous blood returned to the heart because of the pumping effects on the veins.

Ventricular contraction does not result in complete emptying of the ventricles; varying amounts of blood remain after each contraction. The force of ventricular contraction is limited by the muscle tissue itself, but modified up to the maximum possible by the amount of blood in the heart--it contracts more forcibly if it is full--and the effect of the hormone adrenaline, which causes an increase in the strength of cardiac muscle contraction (Schmidt-Nielson 1979;103). Total blood volume obviously affects the amount of blood in the heart and the subsequent force of the contraction.

The control of stroke volume or cardiac output is self-regulated due to the feedback effects of the return of venous blood to the heart, by hormonal regulation as adrenalin affects the strength of the contraction, and by the blood volume and venous system, all acting within the physical framework of heart size. Undisturbed animals in different activities likely have stroke volumes that are proportional to heart rates. Disturbed animals, responding to noises, by elevating heart rate, for example, likely have stroke volumes that are not in proportion to rate. Their heart rate increases are not accompanied by concommitant increases in stroke volume and metabolism is not elevated in direct proportion to heart rate increases. This is an important consideration when using heart rate as an independent variable when calculating energy metabolism.

Heart volume and heart weights in relation to body weights that were discussed in CHAPTER 1 are good starting points for further analyses of the effects of these functional effects on the realized stroke volumes in different cirumstances.

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Hoar, W. S. 1966. General and comparative physiology. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. 815 pp.

Schmidt-Nielson, K. 1979. Animal physiology: adaptation and environment. Cambridge University, Press, Cambridge. 560 pp.

# REFERENCES, UNIT 2.2

# STROKE VOLUME

### SERIALS

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR odhe

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ZEJAA 4---4 171 177 ceel [regula of blood pressure] jaczewski,z; janu 1958

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JEBPA 12--4 347 349 alal rata, card comp emot stres roshchevskii,mp/ 1976

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR APSSA 396-- 396 96 rata blood circulation, finnish hirvonen,1; jar/ 1973

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# UNIT 2.3: BLOOD VOLUMES

Blood volumes are dependent on the mass of the animal and on the time of year. Larger animals are expected to contain more blood than smaller animals, and higher blood volumes are observed during seasons of the year when metabolic functions are highest.

Total blood volume includes of both the plasma, or fluid portion, and blood cells which are suspended in the plasma. Red cells make up a greater portion of the packed cell volume than white cells.

Blood plasma volumes are regulated by the exchange of water through the capillary wall. Two factors are given by Pantelouris (1967:252) as the cause of such exchange. One, water tends to move by osmosis from the tissue spaces (interstitial fluid) into the capillaries because of the higher protein content within the capillaries, and two, the greater hydrostatic pressure inside the blood vessels tends to force water out, counteracting the movement of water in by osmosis. Thus total blood volume is maintained properly in the healthy animal by fluid exchange through the walls of the capillary network.

### LITERATURE CITED

Pantelouris, L. M. 1967. Introduction to animal physiology and physiological genetics. Pergamon Press, Oxford. 497 pp.

# REFERENCES, UNIT 2.3

### BLOOD VOLUMES

#### SERIALS

CODEN	vo-nu	BEPA	ENPA	ANIM	KEY WORDS AUTHORS	YEAR
CBCPA	192	471	473	odvi	red cell life span, w-t de noyes,wd; kitchen	1966
CPSCA	74	217	218	odvi	organ:body weight relation robinson,pf	1966
					weight relations, georg re hamerstrom,fm,jr/ hematologica volumes, mich johnson,he; youa/	
VJSCA	262	61	61	odvi	immobi drug, pack cell vol wesson, ja III; s	1975

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JANSA 38--6 1331 1332 odhe blood compon, seas, wt, fe o'brien, jm; les/ 1974 JOMAA 36--3 474 476 odhe erythrocyte val, mule deer browman, 1g; sear 1955 JOMAA 52--3 628 630 odhe tiss, organs, tota body ma hakonson, te; whi 1971 JOMAA 53--2 384 387 odhe total serum protein in pop anderson, ae; med/ 1972 JWMAA 34--2 389 406 odhe erythrocyte, leukocy, colo anderson, ae; med/ 1970 PCZOA 2--10 46 46 odhe chang, plas lipid thr year stewart, sf; nor/ 1974 WLMOA 39--- 1 122 odhe carcas, bone, organ, gland anderson, ae; med/ 1974

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS------ AUTHORS----- YEAR ATRLA 15--- 253 268 ceel relat age and size, poland dziecioloski,r 1970 ZEJAA 4---4 171 177 ceel [regulation of blood pres] jaczewski,z; ja/ 1958

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JOMAA 27--1 90 91 alal weights of minnesota moose brechinridge,wj 1946 JOMAA 50--4 826 alal blood chemis, shiras moose houston,db 1969

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR APSSA 396-- 96 96 rata blood circulation, finnish hirvonen,1; jarv/ 1973 CJZOA 47--4 557 562 rata hematologi studies, bar-gr mcewan,eh 1968 CJZOA 50--1 107 116 rata seas chang, blood vol, wat cameron,rd; luick 1972

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR RSPYA 21-3 365 370 anam doga, cardiopulmonary para mckean,t; walker, 1974

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### UNIT 2.4: BLOOD CHARACTERISTICS

Blood characteristics may be divided into two major categories: hematology and blood chemistry. Hematology involves analyses of the cellular components of the blood. Blood chemistry involves analyses of the chemical components of the blood. Hematology is a physical approach, blood-chemical determinations a chemical one.

#### HEMATOLOGY

Counting the cellular elements in the blood of animals is valuable in assessing conditions of health and disease (Siegmund and Eaton 1967:1461). They point out, however, that variations between animals of the same species (they are discussing domestic animals) are considerable and depend on age, sex, nutrition, diurnal and sexual cycles, and stresses such as strenous exercise and excessive heat and cold. Since these variations are very much part of the lives of wild ruminants in their natural habitats, large variations should be expected in this group. Further, collections cannot be made conveniently, regularly, and without immediate stress on the free-ranging ruminant, so a very incomplete hematology picture can be obtained at best. Captive animals provide some base-line values and patterns, of course, but their relationship to free-ranging ruminants will also be variable.

A "normal hemogram" table is given in Siegmund and Eaton (1967:1462) for the ox, sheep, and goat. Categories include hematocrit, erythrocytes, hemoglobin, leukocytes, neutrophils, and lymphocytes.

Hematocrit is the packed cell volume, expressed as a percent of the total blood volume. It is determined by centrifuging the blood sample. The red blood cell or erythrocyte count is made as a check for anemia. Malnutrition, iron deficiency, or chronic disease may result in a reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells. The hemoglobin content of each red blood cell is also variable; a reduction indicates an anemic condition.

The leukocyte count usually rises in response to an acute bacterial infrection, and declines in response to acute viral infections. Neutrophils increase markedly in response to pus-forming organisms, and an increase in lymphocytes usually indicates a more chronic process, or the end stage of an acute infection. Additional details and instructions for analyzing these blood characteristics are given in Siegmund and Eaton (1967).

### BLOOD CHEMISTRY

Blood chemical determinations may be made for such things as blood sugar, blood urea nitrogen, blood creatinine, and minerals such as calcium and phosphorous. Uniform handling and collection procedures were suggested by Seal et al. (1972a) as white-tailed deer showed effects of handling (with no drugs) for up to 24 hours later. Comparisons were made for restraint and drug groups, and another paper by the same authors describes nutritional effects on thyroid activity and blood of white-tailed deer (1972b). One important result is that serum thyroxine decreases in the winter, indicating a state of hypothyrodism and decrease metabolic rate as an energy conservation adaptation. This is discussed further in CHAPTER 7.

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odvi continued on the next page

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHOR S----- YEAR

JWMAA JWMAA JWMAA	392 392 394 403 432	346 692 442	345 354 698 446 460	odvi odvi odvi	ser cholesterol level chng coblenz, be blood prot, gestatn, suckl hartsook, ew; ener, prot, blood urea nit kirkpatrick, r plasma progest, puber, faw abler, wa; buo season, nutri, serum nitro bahnak, br; ho	rl;b/ 197 ckla/ 197	'5 '5 '6
MGQPA	32	113	138	odvi	physiol baselines, hematol karns,pd	197	2
NAWTA	3	8 <b>9</b> 0	892	odvi	glac nat par, enlar spleen aiton,jf	193	8
PAARA	209	1	11	odvi	feed restr, seas, antl dev long,ta; cowa	an,r/ 195	9
SCIEA	144	1237	1239	odvi	hemoglob polymor, sickling kitchen,h; pa	utn/ 196	4
SOVEA	281	25	26	odvi	blood, glucose, urolog par hoff,gl; tra:	lner, 197	5
WDABB	31	32	34	odvi	serolog surv, 2 herds n y friend, j; ha	lter 196	7

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ovđa

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