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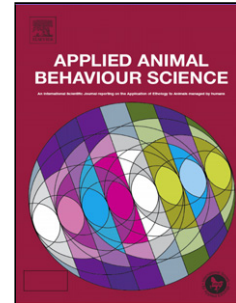
Title: Effects of space allowance and simulated sea transport motion on behavioural and physiological responses of sheep

Authors: Grisel Navarro, Ramazan Col, Clive J.C. Phillips

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EFFECTS OF SPACE ALLOWANCE AND SIMULATED SEA TRANSPORT MOTION ON BEHAVIOURAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES OF SHEEP

Grisel Navarro^{1*}, *Ramazan Col*^{1,2} and *Clive J.C. Phillips*^{1*}

¹ Building 8143, Centre of Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE), School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Gatton, Queensland 4343, Australia; e-mail: grisel.navarro@uq.net.au* (corresponding author) and c.phillips@uq.edu.au

² Department of Physiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Selcuk, Campus 42035, Konya, Turkey; e-mail: rcol@selcuk.edu.tr

Highlights

- Responses to sea motion in sheep were simulated by placing them on a moving platform
- Irregular and regular pitch and roll motions and three space allowances were tested
- The least space (Australian standard) increased pushes and steps, in regular motion
- Aggression increased during irregular motion, especially at the end of treatment
- Regular motion and the least space decreased cardiac variability, suggesting stress

Abstract

Transporting sheep by sea exposes them to some prolonged floor motions, and their responses may depend on their space allowance. We simulated sea motion in a crate with a moveable and programmable floor, to measure behaviour and physiological responses. Nine sheep were exposed in groups of 3 for 1 h periods to Regular motion (8° roll of the floor every 15s), Irregular motion (30 randomly selected amplitudes and duration of floor roll, with the same means as Regular), and No floor motion, at High (0.35m²/head), Medium (0.30m²/head), and Low (0.26m²/head) space allowances, with Low representing the Australian shipping standard.

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