

Diet and Nutrition with Reference to Digested Energy and Activity as a cause for Obesity in Captive Mongoose Lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*)

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Qualitative measurements and observations revealed the incidence of obesity in a population of mongoose lemurs (*E. mongoz*) in Bristol Zoo. Data on body weights, food intake, energy budgets and nutritional content as well as nutrient digestibility were collected from three *E. mongoz*.

These were then compared to their wild equivalents. The captive individuals were all heavier than their mean wild equivalents. Using a weight-based definition of obesity, one individual in the population was obese. Dietary components suggested a greater amount of simple carbohydrates in the captive diet compared with wild. Time spent feeding and foraging was seen to decrease in captivity. The obese individual spent significantly less time active as well as feeding and foraging than both other members of the population. Nutritional analysis revealed differences in dietary components and allowed digestibility of energy density to be calculated.

The findings are discussed with reference to the energy digestibility of *E. mongoz* with implications of super-optimal feeding and/or sub-optimal energy expenditure patterns as a possible cause for obesity.

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