

# Effect of grouping hour on agonistic behaviour of goats after introduction of unfamiliar individuals

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Introduction of  
unfamiliar  
animals



- Effect of grouping hour on agonistic behaviours when unfamiliar animals are introduced in a stabilized group



## Animals, Housing and Management

- 56 horned Serrana breed goats
  - 4 groups – 9 animals (G9)
  - 4 groups - 5 animals (G5)
- Unaltered for 2 months
- Housed separately: no visual, acoustic or olfactory contact.





## Experimental design

- 2 grouping hours (GH10 and GH18)

- G5 goats  G9

- 5 days experiment: 

D-2	D-1	D0	D+1	D+2
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Grouping day



- Agonistic behaviours were scored during 6 hours after each grouping



## Behavioural observations

- Continuous video recording
- First 120 min after grouping  following 240 min



instantaneous sampling at 5-min intervals



## Behavioural observations

- Frontal Clashing



- Butting



- Chasing

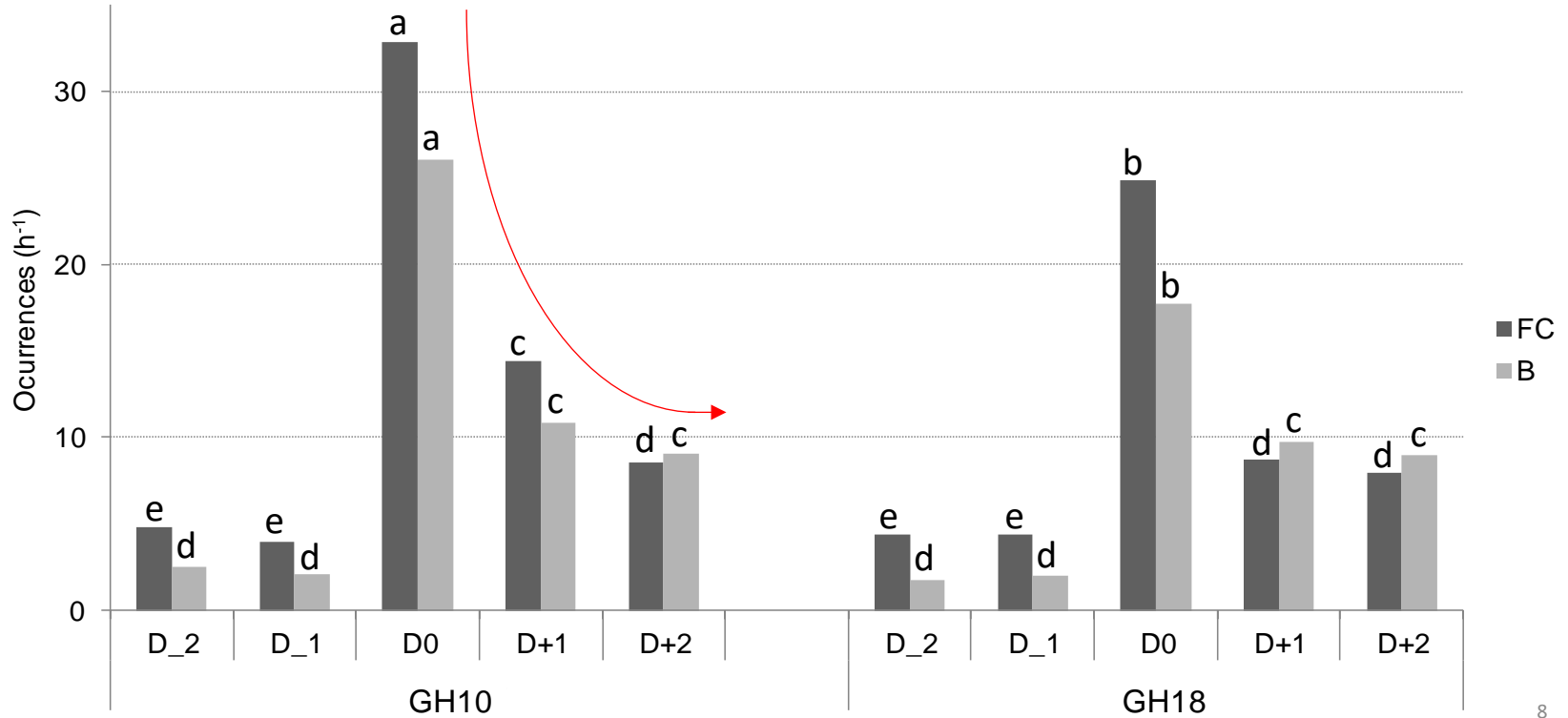


- Threat

- Avoiding



- Effect of GH ( $P < 0.001$ ) on FC, B and C  $\longrightarrow$  not observed for T ( $P = 0.080$ ) and A ( $P = 0.204$ ).
- FC, B, C were more common at GH10 ( $P < 0.05$ ).
- All agonistic behaviours increased ( $P < 0.05$ ).
- Two days after grouping, levels of agonistic behaviours remain 2-5 times higher.





Introduction



Materials &  
Methods



Results



Discussion &  
Conclusions

- D0 = agonistic behaviours
- Levels remain for 2 days.
- Less aggressiveness in the **evening**.



(ANCRAS, 2016)