

1 Pacing behaviour in laboratory macaques is an unreliable indicator of acute stress.

2

3 Colline Poirier^{1*}, Caitlin J. Oliver¹, Janire Castellano Bueno¹, Paul Flecknell² and Melissa Bateson¹

4

5 1 Institute of Neuroscience and Centre for Behaviour and Evolution, Newcastle University

6 2 Comparative Biology Centre, Newcastle University

7

8 *Corresponding author: Colline Poirier

9 Institute of Neuroscience

10 Newcastle University

11 Framlington Place,

12 Newcastle upon Tyne

13 NE2 4HH

14 UK

15 Tel: +44 (0)191 222 3445

16 Fax: +44 (0)191 208 5731

17 colline.poirier@ncl.ac.uk

18

19 Pacing behaviour, the most frequent stereotypic behaviour displayed by laboratory rhesus macaques
20 (*Macaca mulatta*) is often used as an indicator of stress. In this study, we investigated how reliable
21 this welfare indicator is at detecting acute stress by testing the reaction of macaques to the stressful
22 event of being exposed to an agonistic interaction between conspecifics housed in the same room but
23 in a different cage. Pacing, agitated locomotion, and stress-related displacement behaviours were
24 quantified before, during and after agonistic interaction exposure, based on video recordings of 13
25 socially-housed macaques in their home cage. Displacement behaviours increased after agonistic
26 interaction exposure, confirming that the events were experienced as stressful by the focal individuals.
27 The occurrence of pacing did not increase during or after the agonistic interactions. Instead, agitated
28 locomotion increased during the agonistic interactions. These results suggest either, that pacing as an
29 indicator of acute stress is prone to false negative results, increasing in some stressful situations but
30 not others, or that agitated locomotion has been mistaken for pacing in previous studies and that
31 pacing is in fact unrelated to current acute stress. Both interpretations lead to the conclusion that
32 pacing is unreliable as an indicator of acute stress in laboratory rhesus macaques.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40 Of the laboratory animal species commonly used in biomedical research, non-human primates (NHPs)
41 are phylogenetically closest to humans. This proximity makes NHPs a crucial animal model in
42 biomedical science, but also makes their welfare of particular concern to the general public. Current
43 regulations reflect this public concern^{1,2}, and require that researchers ensure the best possible welfare
44 for the animals that they use. To achieve this goal, reliable welfare indicators are necessary.
45 Stereotypies, which are repetitive, unvarying and apparently functionless behaviours, are often used as
46 indicators of acute or chronic stress³. In rhesus macaques, one of the main NHP models used in
47 research, pacing is the most common stereotypic behaviour observed in the laboratory⁴. In this study,
48 we sought to establish whether pacing is a reliable indicator of acute stress in this species.

49 Pacing in rhesus macaques (hereafter macaques) is defined as repetitive walking of an
50 individual in the exact same pattern^{4,5}. Previous studies have reported that macaques increase their
51 pacing during or immediately after short periods of acute stress (e.g. placing in a transport box for few
52 seconds, exposure to a 10-minute cue of impending social isolation)^{6,7}. Injecting macaques with a high
53 dose of the anxiogenic drug FG7142 also increases pacing⁸. An increase in pacing frequency is thus
54 usually interpreted as an increase in acute stress^{9,10}, where the term ‘stress’ is used to refer to an
55 unpleasant, arousing affective state.

56 However, in a recent study where macaques were submitted to the human intruder test, a
57 classical test to induce acute stress, pacing frequency was found to decrease during the stressful
58 event¹¹. This result suggests that pacing can increase or decrease with acute stress, depending on the
59 stressful situation. This finding is important from a welfare perspective, because if the frequency of a
60 behaviour can increase in some stressful situations and decrease in others, variation in the behaviour
61 in a new situation (whose stressful nature is unknown) cannot be interpreted unequivocally; in other
62 words, the behaviour is unreliable as an indicator of acute stress.

63 In the current study we sought to determine whether the behavioural response to the human
64 intruder test is an exceptional case, or whether other types of stressors also induce a decrease in
65 pacing. To do this, we needed to identify an alternative source of acute stress that occurs relatively
66 frequently in laboratory macaques and hence had the potential to explain the prevalence of pacing in
67 primate research facilities. We chose to investigate the effect of passive exposure to agonistic

68 interactions between conspecifics on the a priori assumption that this is stressful. Agonistic
69 interactions in macaques are used to challenge or reassert the social position of protagonists and can
70 result in severe injuries. In free-ranging macaque colonies, agonistic support (where one or several
71 individuals help one of the protagonists) is frequent¹². Hence, witnessing an agonistic interaction
72 implies potential imminent involvement in a stressful situation, which is likely to be stressful in itself.
73 Witnessing agonistic interactions between macaques is also a source of transient negative arousing
74 emotion in human staff, despite years of experience with the phenomenon. Exposure to agonistic
75 interactions also has ecological relevance, since it occurs in research colonies where individuals are
76 housed in pairs or small social groups, which is now the norm in European primate research facilities
77 and an emerging trend in North America. Guided by ethical considerations, we made use of agonistic
78 interactions that occurred spontaneously in our research colony. We measured the occurrence of
79 pacing before and during passive exposure to agonistic interactions between conspecifics housed in
80 the same room but in a different cage than focal individuals. In the recent intruder test study¹¹, the
81 authors did not include behavioural observation of macaques after exposure to the acute stressor had
82 ceased. It is thus possible that an increase of pacing frequency happened subsequently and was not
83 recorded. To control for the possibility that the expected increase in pacing could be delayed, we also
84 measured the occurrence of pacing after exposure to the agonistic interactions.

85

86 **Results**

87 *Agonistic interactions*

88 Video footage of home-cage behaviour of 13 focal adult male individuals previously recorded for
89 another purpose was used for this project. Agonistic interactions were defined as any period lasting at
90 least 10 s during which threatening/alarm vocalisations associated with loud object banging noises
91 were heard. This identification was made based on the soundtrack of the video recordings with the
92 video images concealed in order to avoid any selection bias caused by the behaviour of the focal
93 individuals. Fourteen agonistic interactions were identified. The maximal duration of the interactions
94 was 20s. Analyses of video images confirmed that in all but one case agonistic interactions occurred
95 in a different cage than those of focal individuals. Data related to that agonistic interaction were

96 discarded. Video recordings of each focal individual were not always available for each agonistic
97 interaction. The number of agonistic interactions for which video existed varied between 4 and 12
98 agonistic interactions per individual, resulting in a total of 106 behavioural responses to agonistic
99 interactions occurring in a cage other than that of the focal individual.

100

101 *Displacement behaviours*

102 To verify that agonistic interaction exposure was experienced as stressful by the macaques, we
103 recorded and analysed the occurrence of displacement behaviours¹³ displayed by macaques, namely
104 scratching, body shaking and self-grooming (Table 1). These behaviours were chosen based on their
105 pharmacological validation as indicators of stress or anxiety by Schino and colleagues¹⁴. Exposure to
106 a stressful event induces an immediate increase in catecholamines and a slower increase in cortisol,
107 peaking around 20 to 30 minutes after the stressful event¹⁵⁻¹⁷. To capture the behavioural responses
108 potentially associated with these two distinct hormonal responses, behaviour of focal individuals was
109 scored in **four** time intervals relative to the agonistic interaction: during the 15 min preceding the
110 agonistic interaction (the time interval designated [-15 – 0]), during the agonistic interaction
111 (designated as [0]), during the 15 min following the end of the agonistic interaction (designated as [0
112 – 15]), and during the time interval [15 – 40] min post-agonistic interaction. The four time intervals
113 were divided into 10-s time bins and the presence (1) or absence (0) of displacement behaviours
114 within each time bin was recorded. Following Schino and colleagues¹⁴ approach, scratching, body
115 shaking and self-grooming were then combined to create a single category of ‘displacement
116 behaviours’. Presence of at least one of the behaviours (1) or absence of all of them (0) within each
117 time bin was computed and analysed.

118 Displacement behaviours were displayed by all individuals, with occurrence varying between 5.5
119 and 27.2 % (percentage of 10-s time bins in which displacement behaviours occurred). Generalised
120 linear mixed models of displacement data revealed an effect of time interval relative to agonistic
121 interaction (Table 2, model 1 vs. model 2: $\chi^2(3) = 31.1, P < 0.001$), driven by an increase in
122 displacement behaviour occurrence in the second time interval after the agonistic interaction,

123 compared to before (Table 2, model 2: [15 – 40] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = 0.24 (0.05), $Z = 4.9$, $P <$
124 0.001).

125 Despite the fact that our analyses were restricted to a narrow time window of 55 min, circadian
126 changes might still potentially confound the effect of time intervals relative to agonistic interaction.
127 Based on unpublished data suggesting that some behaviours might follow a circadian rhythm, we thus
128 performed a second analysis where the effect of absolute time of the day was included. Adding the
129 time of the day as an additional fixed effect did not improve model fit (Table 2, model 2 vs. model 3:
130 $\chi^2(1) = 0.2$, $P = 0.67$). Additional control analyses are described in the supplementary note.

131

132 *Pacing*

133 Following the same approach as for displacement behaviours, presence or absence of pacing within
134 each time bin was recorded (for the operational definition of pacing, see table 1). Pacing behaviour
135 was displayed by 7 out of 13 individuals. Among pacing individuals, occurrence of pacing varied
136 from 0.4 to 44.2 % (percentage of 10-s time bins in which pacing occurred).

137 Generalised linear mixed models of pacing data revealed a significant effect of time interval
138 relative to agonistic interaction (Fig. 1; Table 2, model 4 vs. model 5, $\chi^2(3) = 74.3$, $P < 0.001$), driven
139 by a decrease in occurrence of pacing in the two time intervals following the agonistic interactions
140 compared to before (Table 2, model 5: [0 – 15] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = -0.24 (0.07), $Z = -3.3$, $P <$
141 0.001; [15 – 40] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = -0.56 (0.07), $Z = -8.5$, $P < 0.001$). There was no difference in
142 occurrence of pacing before and during the agonistic interactions (Table 2, model 5: β (s.e.) = 0.002
143 (0.34), $Z = 0.007$, $P = 0.99$).

144 We also tested the possibility that the decrease in pacing might be due to an effect of absolute
145 time of the day. Including time of day as an additional fixed effect significantly improved model fit
146 (Table 2, model 5 vs. model 6, $\chi^2(1) = 7.1$, $P = 0.007$). Occurrence of pacing was found to decrease
147 with time of day (Table 2, model 6: β (s.e.) = -16.63 (5.55), $Z = -3.0$, $P = 0.002$) and the effect of time
148 interval relative to agonistic interaction in the new model was no longer significant (Table 2, model 6
149 vs. model 7: $\chi^2(3) = 1.1$, $P = 0.79$).

150

151 *Agitated locomotion*

152 Finally, we also assessed the occurrence of agitated locomotion, a behaviour defined as ‘moving
153 rapidly between locations, with a stiff un-relaxed gait’ (Table 1). In our macaque facility where
154 individuals are housed in large and enriched cages, this behaviour differs from pacing not only in the
155 gait of the subject (which is stiff in agitated locomotion and elastic in pacing) but also in the
156 flexibility of the path used within and between occurrences, making the two behaviours easy to
157 distinguish (the inter-observer reliability measured with Kappa scores were of 0.98 for pacing and 1
158 for agitated locomotion in the present study). Based on past cage-side observations from researchers
159 and technicians working in the facility, we had been discussing whether this behaviour could be an
160 indicator of stress (see ¹⁸ for the first study where this behaviour was systematically quantified in our
161 facility, with inconclusive results in a context of chronic stress). In the present study, we tested the
162 hypothesis that agitated locomotion might increase during or after exposure to an acute stressor.

163 Agitated locomotion was displayed by 12 out of 13 individuals, including all pacers ($N = 7$) and 5
164 non-pacers. The occurrence of agitated locomotion among individuals that displayed the behaviour at
165 least once varied from 0.03 to 1.3 % (percentage of 10-s time bins in which agitated locomotion
166 occurred).

167 Generalised linear mixed models of agitated locomotion data revealed a significant effect of time
168 interval relative to agonistic interaction (Table 2, model 8 vs. model 9: $\chi^2(3) = 154, P < 0.001$),
169 driven by an increase in agitated locomotion during agonistic interactions, compared to before (Table
170 2, model 9: [0] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = 4.1 (0.29), $Z = 14.4, P < 0.001$). There was no significant
171 difference in occurrence of agitated locomotion before and after the agonistic interactions (Table 2,
172 model 9: [0 – 15] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = -0.56 (0.30), $Z = -1.90, P = 0.06$; [15 – 40] vs. [-15 – 0]: β
173 (s.e.) = 0.003 (0.23), $Z = 0.01, P = 0.99$). Adding the absolute time of day as an additional fixed effect
174 did not improve model fit (Table 2, model 9 vs. model 10: $\chi^2(1) = 0.27, P = 0.60$).

175 Generalised linear mixed models applied separately to pacers and non-pacers revealed similar
176 effects of time interval relative to agonistic interaction in both groups (Fig. 2 and Table 2, pacers:
177 model 11 vs. model 12: $\chi^2(3) = 124, P < 0.001$, model 12: [0] vs. [-15 – 0]: β (s.e.) = 4.39 (0.34), $Z =$

178 12.7, $P < 0.001$; non-pacers: model 13 vs. Model 14 : $\chi^2 (3) = 33$, $P < 0.001$, model 14 : [0] vs. [-15 –
179 0]: β (s.e.) = 3.49 (0.59), $Z = 5.9$, $P < 0.001$).

180

181 **Discussion**

182 This study investigated the behavioural reaction of laboratory rhesus macaques to agonistic
183 interactions occurring between conspecifics housed in separate, but nearby cages within the same
184 room. Displacement behaviours, which are pharmacologically validated indicators of stress or
185 anxiety, increased after the agonistic interactions, confirming that witnessing agonistic interactions
186 was perceived as stressful by the macaques. Our study reveals that stereotypic pacing did not increase
187 during or after the agonistic interactions. Peterson and colleagues previously showed that pacing did
188 not increase during an intruder test, a paradigm established to induce stress in macaques¹¹. Here we
189 extend this result by testing a different stressful situation (passive exposure to an agonistic interaction
190 between conspecifics) and by providing a more comprehensive assessment of pacing by testing its
191 frequency not only during the stressful event but also during a sustained period of time (up to 40 min)
192 after the stressful event. These data contrast with previous studies where pacing was found to increase
193 with acute stress^{6,7}. These conflicting results can be interpreted in two different ways that we describe
194 in the following paragraphs.

195 The first possible explanation for discrepant results from different studies is that pacing
196 frequency increases in some stressful situations but not in others. If this is the case, it means that
197 pacing when used as an indicator of acute stress is prone to false negative results, where macaques
198 experience acute stress but do not express it by an increase in pacing (Fig. 3). From a welfare
199 perspective, this possibility is problematic for two reasons. First, using pacing as an indicator of acute
200 stress might lead stressful husbandry or experimental procedures to fail to be identified as such,
201 preventing researchers, veterinarians and/or technical staff from refining them and thus improving
202 animal welfare. Second, false-negative results also undermine the use of an absence of pacing
203 frequency increase during or after a procedure as a reliable indicator that the procedure is not
204 stressful. This is problematic because determining which husbandry and scientific procedures are not
205 experienced as stressful is as important as identifying those which are stressful. It should also be noted

206 that whether pacing in macaques increases after positively-valenced (i.e. pleasant) arousing events has
207 never been investigated. The potential of pacing to generate false positive results (Fig. 3) when used
208 as an indicator of acute stress is thus currently unknown. Consequently, when pacing frequency is
209 found to be increased by an event or procedure, one cannot conclude with confidence that this event
210 or procedure induced acute stress rather than a pleasant arousing emotion.

211 Alternatively, the fact that pacing seems to increase during some stressful situations^{6,7}, but not
212 others (¹¹, our study), might be due to the possible conflation between pacing and agitated locomotion
213 in previous studies. Indeed, our study revealed an increase in agitated locomotion during agonistic
214 interactions. Differences between pacing and agitated locomotion are summarised in Table 3. One
215 notable difference is that agitated locomotion is not stereotypic, the path used by an individual
216 varying from one occurrence to another. In our research facility where macaques are housed in
217 relatively big cages (15 m³) with shelves and ropes, the two behaviours are easy to distinguish.
218 However, it is possible that in small cages agitated locomotion appears stereotypic due to the lack of
219 options in the paths individuals can walk, making it visually indistinguishable from true pacing.
220 Interestingly, studies reporting an increase in pacing frequency induced by acute stress, including the
221 anxiogenic drug FG7142⁶⁻⁸, all come from macaques housed in very small cages (below 1.3 m³). It is
222 thus possible that existing literature linking acute stress and pacing should be reinterpreted as showing
223 a link between acute stress and agitated locomotion. This hypothesis raises the possibility that pacing
224 displayed by macaques in relatively big cages is unrelated to present acute stress.

225 In some individuals, occurrence of pacing was found to be high before, during and after the
226 agonistic interactions (fig. 1B). Source(s) of acute stress during the whole period could not be
227 identified. This result indicates that pacing is likely to be caused by factor(s) other than current acute
228 stress. We have recently reviewed these potential factors¹⁹. Our review suggests that pacing might be
229 the consequence of brain abnormalities induced by a past stressful event, and be unrelated to the
230 current state of the individual. Alternatively, pacing might be caused by chronic stress, boredom or a
231 specific need to walk. These different hypotheses have different welfare consequences with the
232 welfare of pacing macaques being either better, worse or equivalent to that of non-pacing
233 individuals¹⁹. As long as the cause(s) of pacing remain unresolved, we argue that pacing should not be

234 used as an indicator of acute or chronic stress, especially in the absence of other indicators of poor
235 welfare.

236 Our results raise the possibility that agitated locomotion could be a useful indicator of acute
237 stress. In sharp contrast with pacing behaviour, agitated locomotion increased during the agonistic
238 interactions but was virtually non-existent outside periods of agonistic interactions, when no source of
239 acute stress could be detected. These results however need to be replicated with other stressful
240 situations. If agitated locomotion is systematically observed during different stressful situations (i.e. if
241 no/few false negative results are observed), this behaviour might be a convenient welfare marker since
242 it is easy to identify (at least in large, enriched cages) and its baseline frequency near to zero makes
243 any increase easy to detect. Whether agitated locomotion also increases during positively-valenced
244 arousing events (susceptibility to false positive results) will also need to be determined.

245 To our knowledge, the precise time scale of behavioural indicators of acute stress in macaques has
246 never been systematically investigated. From an applied perspective, this information might help in
247 designing better behavioural observation protocols. At the physiological level, acute stress induces a
248 well-established cascade of events, including the release of different hormones over different time
249 scales. In the present study, we used this knowledge to guide our observation periods. Agitated
250 locomotion increased during the very brief period of agonistic interactions, suggesting that this
251 behaviour might be triggered by the fast-released catecholamines. By contrast, displacement
252 behaviours' increase was observed during the 15 - 40 minute interval after the stressor, suggesting
253 that these behaviours might be induced by the slowly-released cortisol. We did not quantify the
254 occurrence of behaviours later than 40 minutes post-stressor, and therefore, cannot exclude that
255 pacing might potentially increase at this much later time point. Further studies will be necessary to
256 determine whether quantifying pacing several hours after a stressful event could be useful as an
257 indicator of acute stress.

258 To conclude, by showing that pacing does not increase following exposure to conspecific
259 agonistic interactions, this study shows that pacing behaviour is not a reliable indicator of acute stress.
260 Our data also suggest that agitated locomotion might potentially be a useful indicator of acute stress,
261 or at least arousal, but more studies are needed to confirm this. Welfare research on captive animals is

262 often done using experimental paradigms that involve manipulating the affective state of the animals
263 by imposing a stressor^{20,21}. While this approach is undoubtedly the most powerful, the current study
264 illustrates how new knowledge can also be gained by using observations of animals without inducing
265 additional stress.

266

267 **Materials and methods**

268 *Subjects and ethical statement*

269 Subjects were 13 male rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) aged between 4 and 10 years (weight
270 range: 5 to 18 kg). Individuals had been raised in a British breeding centre, first with their mother for
271 at least 6 months and then with other juveniles in large rooms. When adolescent, subjects were moved
272 to the Newcastle University research facility, which complies with the NC3Rs Guidelines for ‘Primate
273 Accommodation, care and use’ (www.nc3rs.org.uk/primatesguidelines). There, they were housed in
274 relatively large cages (2.1 x 3.0 x 2.4 m) exceeding the minimal space requirement under the UK
275 legislation (1.8 m³ per animal). The height of the cages and the presence of high perches and shelves
276 allowed macaques, if alarmed, to flee upwards. Subjects were housed in iso-sex pairs except one
277 male, which was paired with two females. Besides the presence of at least one cage mate, enrichment
278 was provided by daily foraging opportunity (the food was scattered in the litter on the floor), wooden
279 shelves, swings, ropes, objects to manipulate (changed on a regular basis) and natural light. Cages
280 were located in a large room housing more than 40 individuals. Focal individuals were thus in visual
281 and auditory contact with many other conspecifics in addition to their cage mates. Some of the
282 individuals were routinely involved in neuroscience experiments while others had not yet been
283 subjected to any experimental procedures. This study consisted of behavioural observation of
284 macaque home cage behaviour recorded via remotely-controlled cameras, inducing no interference
285 with the animals. The stressor consisted of passive exposure to agonistic interactions occurring
286 naturally between other animals; the frequency of agonistic interactions was not manipulated for this
287 study. No licence was required for this study.

288

289 *Behavioural observation*

290 Videos were recorded with remotely-controlled cameras (Cube HD 1080, Y-cam Solutions Limited,
291 Twickenham, UK). Recordings from between 1600 and 1800 on Saturdays and Sundays between
292 January and December 2015 were analysed. This period of the week was chosen as it was the only
293 period when macaques were in their home cage with their cagemate, awake and no people were
294 present in the facility. This strategy avoided the necessity of having to control for the potentially
295 stressful effects of human presence and cage mate absence, which typically happens on a daily basis
296 during week days when subjects are involved in experiments.

297

298 *Behavioural scoring and analysis*

299 Behavioural scoring was performed by two observers, including one blind to the hypotheses under test
300 and to when the agonistic interactions occurred. Measures of inter-rater reliability revealed kappa
301 scores above 0.96. Statistical analyses were performed in R, version 3.3.2²² using the *lme4* package²³.
302 The presence or absence of each behaviour within each 10-second time bin was analysed using
303 generalised linear mixed models (*glmer* function) with binomial error distribution and logistic link
304 function. The *time interval relative to agonistic interaction* was declared as a fixed effect (categorical
305 effect with 4 levels), while *subjects* and *agonistic interactions* were declared as random effects, with
306 *agonistic interactions* being nested within *subjects*. Maximum-likelihood estimation was employed
307 throughout. Note that these models cope with highly unbalanced designs such as this one (the amount
308 of data in the [0] interval being much less than in the other time intervals) and non-independence due
309 to repeated measures of subjects and agonistic interactions. Significance testing was carried out by the
310 likelihood ratio test, which compares the change in deviance when a term is excluded from the model
311 with the χ^2 distribution.

312

313 *Data availability*

314 The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the
315 corresponding author on reasonable request.

316

317 References

- 318 1. United States Department of Agriculture. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare
319 Regulations. Chapter 45 (2013). doi:10.2307/4443437
- 320 2. European Union. *Directive 2010/63/EU of the european parliament and of the council of 22*
321 *September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.* (2010).
- 322 3. Mason, G. J. Stereotypies: a critical review. *Anim. Behav.* **41**, 1015–1037 (1991).
- 323 4. Lutz, C., Well, A. & Novak, M. Stereotypic and self-injurious behavior in rhesus macaques: A
324 survey and retrospective analysis of environment and early experience. *Am. J. Primatol.* **60**, 1–
325 15 (2003).
- 326 5. Gottlieb, D. H., Capitanio, J. P. & Mccowan, B. Risk Factors for Stereotypic Behavior and
327 Self-Biting in Rhesus Macaques (*Macaca mulatta*): Animal's History, Current
328 Environment, and Personality. *Am. J. Primatol.* **75**, 995–1008 (2013).
- 329 6. Mitchell, G. & Gomber, J. Moving laboratory rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) to unfamiliar
330 home cages. *Primates* **17**, 543–546 (1976).
- 331 7. Willott, J. F. & McDaniel, J. Changes in the behavior of laboratory-reared rhesus monkeys
332 following the threat of separation. *Primates* **15**, 321–326 (1974).
- 333 8. Major, C. A. *et al.* The anxiogenic drug FG7142 increases self-injurious behavior in male
334 rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*). *Life Sci.* **85**, 753–758 (2009).
- 335 9. Waitt, C. & Buchanan-Smith, H. M. What time is feeding?: How delays and anticipation of
336 feeding schedules affect stump-tailed macaque behavior. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* **75**, 75–85
337 (2001).
- 338 10. Gottlieb, D. H., Coleman, K. & McCowan, B. The Effects of Predictability in Daily
339 Husbandry Routines on Captive Rhesus Macaques (*Macaca mulatta*). *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.*
340 **143**, 117–127 (2013).
- 341 11. Peterson, E. J. *et al.* Rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) with self-injurious behavior show
342 less behavioral anxiety during the human intruder test. *Am. J. Primatol.* **79**, e22569 (2017).
- 343 12. Maestriperieri, D. & Hoffman, C. L. Behavior and social dynamics of Rhesus Macaques on
344 Cayo Santiago. in *Bones, Genetics, and Behavior of Rhesus Macaques* (ed. Q, W.) 247–262

- 345 (Springer, 2012). doi:10.1007/978-1-4614-1046-1
- 346 13. Maestriperi, D., Schino, G., Aureli, F. & Troisi, A. A modest proposal: displacement activities
347 as an indicator of emotions in primates. *Anim. Behav.* **44**, 967–979 (1992).
- 348 14. Schino, G., Perretta, G., Taglioni, A. M., Monaco, V. & Troisi, A. Primate Displacement
349 Actmties As an Ethopharmacological Model of Anxiety. *Anim. Behav.* **44**, 186–191 (1996).
- 350 15. Joëls, M., Fernandez, G. & Roozendaal, B. Stress and emotional memory: A matter of timing.
351 *Trends Cogn. Sci.* **15**, 280–288 (2011).
- 352 16. Koelsch, S. *et al.* The impact of acute stress on hormones and cytokines, and how their
353 recovery is affected by music-evoked positive mood. *Sci. Rep.* **6**, 23008 (2016).
- 354 17. Hermans, E. J., Henckens, M. J. A. G., Joels, M. & Fernandez, G. Dynamic adaptation of
355 large-scale brain networks in response to acute stressors. *Trends Neurosci.* **37**, 304–314
356 (2014).
- 357 18. Gray, H. *et al.* Physiological, Behavioral, and Scientific Impact of Different Fluid Control
358 Protocols in the Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*). **3**, 1–15 (2016).
- 359 19. Poirier, C. & Bateson, M. Pacing stereotypies in laboratory rhesus macaques: implications for
360 animal welfare and the validity of neuroscientific findings. *Neurosci. Biobehav. Rev.* (2017).
361 doi:10.1016/j.neubiorev.2017.09.010
- 362 20. Edgar, J. *et al.* Social buffering in a bird. *Anim. Behav.* **105**, 11–19 (2015).
- 363 21. White, L. J., Thomson, J. S., Pounder, K. C., Coleman, R. C. & Sneddon, L. U. The impact of
364 social context on behaviour and the recovery from welfare challenges in zebrafish, *Danio*
365 *rerio*. *Anim. Behav.* **132**, 189–199 (2017).
- 366 22. R Core Team. A language and environment for statistical computing. (2017).
- 367 23. Bates, D., Mächler, M., Bolker, B. & Walker, S. Fitting Linear Mixed-Effects Models Using
368 lme4. *J. Stat. Softw.* **67**, 1–48 (2015).

369

370 **Acknowledgements**

371 This work was supported by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, the NC3Rs
372 (NC/K000802/1) and internal funding from Newcastle University. The funders had no role in the
373 writing of the report nor in the decision to submit the article for publication.

374

375 **Author contributions statement**

376 Funding acquisition: C.P., P.F., M.B; Conceptualisation and Methodology: C.P and M.B.; Resources:
377 P.F.; Investigation: C.P., J.C.B. and C.O.J.; Formal analysis: C.P.; Supervision: C.P. and M.B.;
378 Visualisation: C.P.; Writing – original draft: C. P.; Writing – review and editing: C.P., C.O.J, P.F.,
379 M.B.

380

381 **Competing interests**

382 The authors declare no competing interests.

383

384 **Figure captions**

385 Figure 1: Occurrence of pacing as a function of the time interval relative to agonistic interaction.
386 Occurrence of pacing corresponds to the proportion of 10-s time bins when the behaviour was
387 displayed (with 1 corresponding to 100 %). The dotted line indicates the ‘during agonistic interaction’
388 interval. a: Data averaged over agonistic interactions and subjects. b: Data averaged over agonistic
389 interactions. c: Data per agonistic interaction and per subject. Note that points appear darker when
390 data from several agonistic interactions are superimposed. The n value indicated in the corner of each
391 individual plot corresponds to the number of agonistic interactions. For the legend of the x axis, see
392 plots a and b.

393

394 Figure 2: Occurrence of agitated locomotion as a function of the time interval relative to agonistic
395 interaction in pacers (a-c) and non-pacers (d-f). Occurrence of agitated locomotion corresponds to the
396 proportion of time bins when the behaviour was displayed (with 1 corresponding to 100 %). The
397 dotted line indicates the ‘during agonistic interaction’ interval. a/d: Data averaged over agonistic
398 interactions and subjects. b/e: Data averaged over agonistic interactions. c/f: Data per agonistic

399 interaction and per subject. Note that points appear darker when data from several agonistic
 400 interactions are superimposed. The n value indicated on each plot corresponds to the number of
 401 agonistic interactions. For the legend of the x axis, see plots a/d and b/e.

402

403 Figure 3: Different possible relationships between pacing frequency and acute stress.

404

405 Table 1: Ethogram

Behaviour	Description
Pacing	Repetitive walking of the same path (at least twice)
Agitated Locomotion	Moving fast between locations with a stiff un-relaxed gait
Self-grooming	Stroking, picking, or otherwise manipulating own body surface
Body shaking	Dog-like shake of whole body
Self-scratching	Scratching the skin vigorously with nails

406

407 Table 2: Generalised linear mixed models

Dependent variable	Model	Fixed predictors	Degrees of freedom
Displacement behaviours	1	None	3
	2	Time interval	6
	3	Time interval; Time of day	7
Pacing	4	None	3
	5	Time interval	6
	6	Time interval; Time of day	7
	7	Time of day	4
Agitated locomotion	8	None	3
	9	Time interval	6
	10	Time interval; Time of day	7
	11	None (pacers)	3
	12	Time interval (pacers)	6
	13	None (non-pacers)	3
	14	Time interval (non-pacers)	6

408 All models include random effects for focal subject and agonistic interaction to control for non-independence
409 arising from repeated measures on subjects and agonistic interaction.

410

411 Table 3: Differences between Pacing and Agitated Locomotion

	Pacing	Agitated locomotion
<i>Form</i>	Elastic gait	Inelastic gait
<i>Flexibility</i>	Invariant path	Variable path
<i>Prevalence</i> ¹	About half of individuals (7/13)	Almost all individuals (12/13)
<i>Frequency</i> ¹	Frequent (up to 44.2%)	Rare (up to 1.3 %)
<i>Duration</i> ¹	Long (up to 10 min)	Short (≤ 20 s)
<i>Context</i> ¹	Before, during and after agonistic interactions	Almost exclusively during agonistic interactions

412 ¹ in this study

413



