

# Vampire Bats on Treadmills: Unveiling Their Unique Metabolism

## Description

Recent experiments involving vampire bats running on treadmills have unveiled their intriguing method of deriving energy from proteins, a byproduct of their unique diet. Unlike most mammals, which primarily rely on fats and sugars for energy, these three species of vampire bats feast on blood, a nutrient-rich but fat- and sugar-poor sustenance. This raises questions about their metabolism, as amino acids typically contribute less than 10 percent of energy during exercise in the animal kingdom.

To delve deeper into their metabolic process, [Kenneth Welch](#) and [Giulia Rossi](#) from the University of Toronto studied 24 common vampire bats (*Desmodus rotundus*) captured in Belize. The bats were given cows' blood infused with amino acids containing labelled carbon atoms before being placed in a treadmill apparatus.

The researchers measured the bats' metabolic rates by tracking their oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide output while they ran at speeds reaching 30 metres per minute. Analysis of the carbon isotopes in the bats' exhalations revealed they were primarily sourcing energy from their recent meal, rather than from stored fats or sugars.

While most animals convert nutrients into sugars and fats for future use, vampire bats have adopted a distinct strategy that makes them particularly vulnerable to starvation—they risk depleting their energy reserves within just 24 hours of not feeding. To counter this vulnerability, these bats forge strong social bonds, often sharing meals by regurgitating blood for their companions, ensuring the survival of the group.

## Vocabulary List:

1. **Metabolism** /mə'tæb.əl.ɪ.zəm/ (noun): The set of life-sustaining chemical reactions in organisms.
2. **Amino Acids** /ə'mi:.noʊ 'æs.ɪdз/ (noun): Organic compounds that combine to form proteins essential for various bodily functions.
3. **Sustenance** /'sʌs.tən.əns/ (noun): Food and drink regarded as a source of strength; nourishment.
4. **Vulnerability** /,vʌl.nə.rə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being open to harm damage or attack.
5. **Depleting** /dɪ'pli:.tɪŋ/ (verb): Reducing the amount of something leading to a shortage.
6. **Companions** /kəm'pæn.jənz/ (noun): Individuals with whom one shares a friendship or association.

## Comprehension Questions

## Multiple Choice

1. What do vampire bats primarily rely on for energy according to the passage?

- Option: Fats and sugars
- Option: Proteins
- Option: Carbohydrates
- Option: Vitamins

2. How many species of vampire bats were involved in the experiments mentioned?

- Option: One
- Option: Two
- Option: Three
- Option: Four

3. What method was used to track the bats' metabolic rates?

- Option: Tracking heart rate
- Option: Measuring blood glucose levels
- Option: Tracking oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide output
- Option: Weighing the bats before and after running

4. How do vampire bats counter their vulnerability to starvation as mentioned in the passage?

- Option: Hibernate
- Option: Store excess fats
- Option: Regurgitate and share meals
- Option: Increase their metabolic rate

5. What is a unique characteristic of the metabolic process of vampire bats?

- Option: High reliance on carbohydrates
- Option: Energy sourced primarily from stored fats
- Option: Depletion of energy reserves within 24 hours of not feeding
- Option: Low oxygen consumption during exercise

6. What do vampire bats primarily feed on?

- Option: Fruits
- Option: Fish
- Option: Blood
- Option: Insects

### True-False

7. Vampire bats primarily rely on fats and sugars for energy.
8. Amino acids typically contribute more than 10 percent of energy during exercise in the animal kingdom.
9. Vampire bats risk depleting their energy reserves within 48 hours of not feeding.
10. Vampire bats share meals by regurgitating blood for their companions to ensure group survival.
11. Vampire bats have a low metabolic rate compared to other mammals.
12. The metabolic rates of vampire bats were measured by analyzing their blood glucose levels.

### Gap-Fill

13. Vampire bats primarily derive energy from \_\_\_\_\_ according to the experiments.
14. The researchers studied 24 common vampire bats captured in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Analysis of the carbon isotopes in bats' exhalations revealed their source of energy was mainly their recent \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Vampire bats risk depleting their energy reserves within just \_\_\_\_\_ hours of not feeding.
17. Vampire bats forge strong social bonds and share meals by regurgitating blood for their companions to ensure \_\_\_\_\_ survival.
18. Unlike most mammals, vampire bats primarily feed on \_\_\_\_\_ as their nutrient-rich sustenance.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Proteins 2. Three 3. Tracking oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide output 4. Regurgitate and share meals

5. Depletion of energy reserves within 24 hours of not feeding 6. Blood

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. proteins 14. Belize 15. meal 16. 24 17. group 18. blood

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. Which term refers to something of considerable size or importance?

- Option: Efficiency
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Challenging
- Option: Metabolism

2. Which term means hidden or not easily noticed?

- Option: Surged
- Option: Concealed
- Option: Vulnerability
- Option: Amino Acids

3. Which term is synonymous with involved or occupied?

- Option: Separation
- Option: Engaged
- Option: Mixture
- Option: Anticipation

4. What term describes a combination of different elements?

- Option: Depleting
- Option: Culinary
- Option: Mixture
- Option: Efficiency

5. Which term describes the repulsion of water?

- Option: Metabolism
- Option: Anthology
- Option: Hydrophobic
- Option: Dynamics

6. Which term is associated with providing incentive or encouragement?

- Option: Anticipation
- Option: Vulnerability

Option: Metabolism

Option: Motivating

7. Which term means to increase suddenly or rise rapidly?

Option: Remnants

Option: Escapism

Option: Surged

Option: Speculative

8. Which term means to reduce or exhaust the supply of something?

Option: Amino Acids

Option: Depleting

Option: Culinary

Option: Highlight

9. Which term is related to cooking or the art of preparing food?

Option: Separation

Option: Efficiency

Option: Culinary

Option: Vulnerability

10. Which term describes the ability to accomplish a task with minimal waste of time and effort?

Option: Speculative

Option: Efficiency

Option: Anticipation

Option: Metabolism

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an observable fact or event.

12. The child's illness left him with a sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

13. After the fire only a few \_\_\_\_\_ of the building stood.

14. The library features an \_\_\_\_\_ of short stories by various authors.

15. The students waited in \_\_\_\_\_ for the exam results.

16. Investing in cryptocurrency can be highly risky and \_\_\_\_\_



17. Your body's \_\_\_\_\_ affects how efficiently you burn calories.

18. The journey was made easier by the presence of loyal \_\_\_\_\_.

19. The trip's \_\_\_\_\_ was seeing the majestic waterfall.

20. The final exam was extremely \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The artist created intricate designs in her work.

22. Understanding the of a new team can help improve collaboration.

23. Their was amicable and they remained friends.

24. In harsh conditions finding can be a struggle.

25. The coach gave a speech that inspired the team.

26. Improving in production can lead to cost savings.

27. The chef's skills impressed all the guests.

28. The professor published an of poetry by modern writers.

29. The novel offered readers a form of from their daily lives.

30. The movie's was the stunning visual effects.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Substantial 2. Concealed 3. Engaged 4. Mixture 5. Hydrophobic 6. Motivating 7. Surged 8. Depleting 9. Culinary 10. Efficiency

**Gap-Fill:** 11. phenomenon 12. vulnerability 13. remnants 14. anthology 15. anticipation 16. speculative 17. metabolism 18. companions 19. highlight 20. challenging

**Matching sentence:** 1. meticulously 2. dynamics 3. separation 4. sustenance 5. motivating 6. efficiency 7. culinary 8. anthology 9. escapism 10. highlight

## CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4



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