Tameness and stress physiology in a predator-naïve island species confronted with novel predation threat

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Supplementary Figure 1.
Measuring flight initiation distances of marine iguanas with a trained dog. This approach with a trained dog led by Shelley Thomas illustrates the narrow reaction norm in flight behaviour of marine iguanas. Although living next to the town of Puerto Ayora on St. Cruz Island, a site with introduced cats and dogs, flight initiation distances of the tested iguanas were short and obviously insufficient to avoid predation from a hunting dog. Photo: © TR.
Supplementary Figure 2. Acute, heavy dog predation in a marine iguana colony on San Cristobal. In February 2005 the Galápagos National Park Service had recorded cumulative findings of marine iguana corpses next to the town Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Closer investigation of the collected corpses and the autopsy of two adult males (A) revealed frequent bite marks and subsequent infections as the most likely cause of death in those individuals for which diagnosis was still possible*. In many cases bite wounds were not lethal per se (B) but resulted in serious secondary infections and, as in the shown animal, in necrosis of about 2/3 of the tail. We assume that stray dogs from town, which do not depend on marine iguanas for food, caused death to the animals through invasive playful behaviour, which probably also provided unhurt marine iguanas the experience of dog encounters, priming their behavioural and endocrine responses to our experimental chasing. The extent of this case of acute local predation is illustrated by the number of 130 corpses, minimum, of different degree of decomposition that were found along a stretch of about 3km of coastline (S0°54’06”, W89°37’17” to S0°55’08”, W89°37’29”) and incinerated by the National Park Service (C, D). Photos: © SB (A) and TR (B-D).

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