

26 **Supplementary Table 3.** Descriptive statistics analyses on the body size/body weight in sheep with
 27 multiple vertebrae and sheep with normal vertebrae.

| Populations | | Traits | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-----|
| Normal vertebrae (T13L6) | BH (cm) | | 48-85 | 68.64±0.63 | 9.93 | 70 |
| | BL (cm) | | 53-96 | 74.99±0.68 | 9.75 | 76 |
| | CC (cm) | 116 | 62-110 | 90.53±0.78 | 9.27 | 92 |
| | SW (cm) | | 5-8 | 6.47±0.08 | 12.82 | 6.5 |
| | BW (kg) | | 33-84 | 59.11±0.95 | 17.32 | 61 |
| Multiple vertebrae (T14L7, T14L6, T13L7) | BH (cm) | | 53-90 | 69.59±0.55 | 8.07 | 70 |
| | BL (cm) | | 64-98 | 79.87±0.74 | 9.45 | 80 |
| | CC (cm) | 104 | 78-120 | 94.81±0.60 | 6.51 | 95 |
| | SW (cm) | | 5-9 | 6.79±0.07 | 11.08 | 7 |
| | BW (kg) | | 32-101 | 65.76±0.96 | 14.83 | 65 |

28 BH, height at withers; BL, body length; CC, chest circumference; SW, shin width; BW, body weight;
 29 T13L6, 13 thoracic vertebrae and 6 lumbar vertebrae; T14L7, T14L6, T13L7, 14 thoracic vertebrae and 7
 30 lumbar vertebrae, 14 thoracic vertebrae and 6 lumbar vertebrae, and 13 thoracic vertebrae and 7 lumbar
 31 vertebrae (T13L7); CVs, coefficient of variations; mean ± SE, the means with standard errors for traits.

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