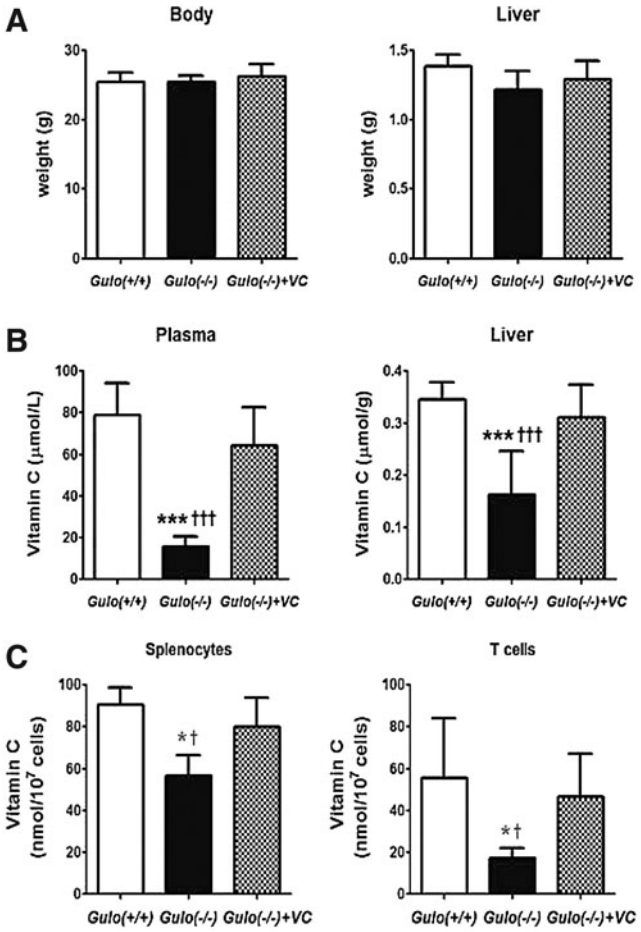

SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S1. General characteristics of *Gulo(−/−)* mice at 3 weeks after vitamin C withdrawal. Characteristics of *Gulo(−/−)* mice upon vitamin C withdrawal after 3 weeks **(A)** Body and liver weight of WT [*Gulo(+/+)*], vitamin C-insufficient [*Gulo(−/−)*], and vitamin C-sufficient [*Gulo(−/−)*+VC] mice. *Gulo(−/−)* mice were maintained in the absence of supply of vitamin C for 3 weeks. **(B)** Levels of vitamin C in the plasma and liver [$n=8$–9, $^{***}p<0.001$ *vs.* WT mice, $^{\dagger\dagger\dagger}p<0.001$ *vs. Gulo(−/−)*+VC]. **(C)** The level of vitamin C in splenocytes and splenic T-cells [$n=5$, $^{*}p<0.05$ *vs.* WT mice, $^{\dagger}p<0.05$ *vs. Gulo(−/−)*+VC]. Gulo, L-gulonolactone-γ-oxidase; WT, wild-type.