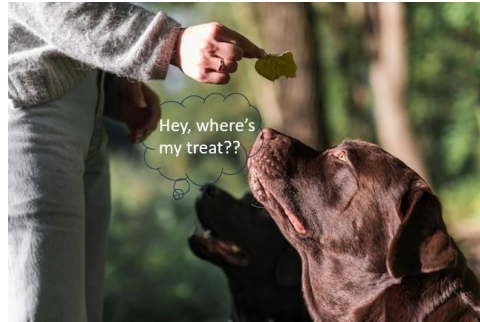


## Animals Understand Fairness



<sup>1</sup> Imagine that you and your friends have just arrived at a popular restaurant. Unfortunately, you are told by the hostess that you'll need to wait in line for about 30 minutes to get a table because there are many other customers who had arrived before you. After about 10 minutes, a man and woman arrive and talk to the hostess. You notice that he secretly hands her some money. Immediately, she takes them to a table. Most of us would feel that this was unfair and will feel resentful toward the hostess.

<sup>2</sup> Some researchers have recently become interested in finding out if the idea of unfairness is a unique emotion only felt by people or is it also experienced by animals. A study looked at how dogs react when a second dog is rewarded in an unequal way for doing the same trick. The researchers shook hands with two dogs, and the dogs were happy to do that whether they got a reward or not.

<sup>3</sup> Next, they asked the dogs to "shake hands" and gave one a reward of a tasty sausage, and the other one a dull piece of bread when they did. Interestingly, the dogs didn't seem to notice the difference and continued to follow the command and shake hands even though one got a tastier reward than the other.

<sup>4</sup> But that changed if they saw that another dog was being rewarded with a piece of food while they received nothing. In the next step of the experiment, the dogs were either rewarded with a sausage or not given any reward. When one dog received a reward and the other didn't, the unrewarded dog hesitated to obey the command. Eventually, the unrewarded dog stopped playing completely.

<sup>5</sup> Psychologists were also interested to see if other animals, for example, monkeys, would have a similar reaction to unfair treatment. In one experiment, monkeys had to give a small rock to researchers to get a piece of food in return. The monkeys were happy to do this to get a piece of cucumber. But they would suddenly act insulted to be offered a cucumber if they saw that another monkey was getting a more delicious reward, a grape, for doing the same job.

<sup>6</sup> "The one who got a cucumber became very upset, threw out the food, threw out the rock that we exchanged with them, and at some point, just stopped performing," says the researcher.

<sup>7</sup> In that experiment, the monkeys considered the fairness of two different types of payment. But as we saw in the experiment with the dogs, the sausage and dark bread, dogs didn't seem to notice the unequal treatment.

<sup>8</sup> Dogs, like monkeys, live in cooperative societies, so the researchers were not surprised that they would also have some sense of fairness. He expects other animals feel this as well. For example, he says, lions hunt cooperatively, and he "would predict that lions would be sensitive to who has done what and what they get for it."

## Dogs Understand Fairness

**Exercise: Write T (true) or F (false) next to each sentence.**

### Comprehension Exercise

**Directions:** Write T (true) or F (false) next to each sentence.

- \_\_\_ 1. At first, the two dogs shook hands only when they got a reward.
- \_\_\_ 2. In the second experiment, the dogs who got the boring bread, continued to shake hands.
- \_\_\_ 3. In the third experiment, that dogs who got no reward stopped shaking hands.
- \_\_\_ 4. Monkeys who got the grape rewards were upset.
- \_\_\_ 5. Monkeys reacted differently from the dogs to the unfair rewards.

### Paraphrasing Exercise

**Directions:** Imagine that you have this conversation with a friend.

You: I just read this interesting article.

Friend: Oh yeah. What did it say?

Write what you would tell your friend. Include as many details as you can.

After you finish writing a first draft, you can re-read the article and revise your draft.

However, don't look at the article while you are writing. You can use some of these **key words** in your paraphrase.

### Key Words

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• shook hands</li><li>• no rewards</li><li>• tasty sausage</li><li>• dull piece of bread</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a sausage</li><li>• not given a reward</li><li>• small rock</li><li>• piece of cucumber</li><li>• delicious grape</li></ul>
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### Reflection Exercise

**Directions:** Write a reflection about the article. Try to write a paragraph with several sentences. In your reflection, your first sentence can be one of these:

- *I found some interesting/important information in this article.*
- *After reading this, I now would like to (learn more about /read more research about /...)*
- *There is some information in this article that I could apply to my life.*
- *I agree / disagree with the author about something.*
- *This article reminded me of (me/ my family/my friend).*
- *I was surprised by something in this article.*