

DO MONKEYS READ OTHERS' GAZE STATEMENT IN NON-COMPETITIVE SITUATION?

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To read others' gaze is one of the important social abilities. Non-human primates (NHP) are known to be sensitive to others' gaze. Yet, previous research suggests that their sensitivity might be specific to competitive situation like food taking. Our present study examined whether NHP read others' gaze in non-competitive situation. We confronted five adult monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*) with the feeding situation, in which a familiar human caretaker gave the foods to them. The monkeys were tested individually in their home-cage. A caretaker was seated in front of a monkey, holding a cup of foods. In each of trials (4 trials per session), a caretaker performed one of two types of visual perspectives. In 'front condition', a caretaker faced front and looked at a monkey. In 'side condition', she turned her head away and did not look at a monkey. Each trial lasted for 1min, and at the end of each trial a monkey was given a food. All monkeys did 4 sessions. Monkeys' looking and requesting responses (raising her/his hand) to a caretaker were assessed. In the side condition monkeys showed more looking responses, whereas in the front condition they showed more requesting responses. That is, monkeys looked at a caretaker and investigated whether she did or did not look at them, and then when she looked at them, they exhibit requesting behavior. Monkeys read others' gaze even in a non-competitive situation. Care and use of monkeys adhered to ethical guidelines of BSI and KUPRI.

Keywords: monkeys, gaze reading, feeding situation, looking and requesting responses