



Cognitive and emotional constraints in the cooperation of animals

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Recent evidence from a wide variety of mammalian species, including humans, has shown that cooperative social bonds are adaptive and lead to greater reproductive success and survival. At the same time, however, there are many ways in which human cooperative interactions differ from other animals'. In particular, it has been argued that animals often seem to be indifferent to the welfare of others and are not motivated to initiate cooperative interaction in which rewards are shared. The apparent lack of prosociality in animals is thought to derive from both cognitive and emotional constraints. I will review and assess some of these constraints, drawing in particular from recent data on cooperative interactions in natural populations of primates.