Capuchin monkeys can tell when they are being ripped off!

Five pairs of female capuchin monkeys were tested. Each pair of monkeys were placed in side by side cages, and trained to exchange a granite token for a slice of cucumber. It has been previously established that Capuchin monkeys engage in a lot of social sharing behavior.

When both monkeys were given a cucumber slice after handing over the token, they completed the trade 95% of the time. But when one was given the tastier grape for the same amount of work, the rate of cooperation from the other monkey fell to 60%, with the cheated primate sometimes throwing the token, refusing the cucumber or giving the cucumber to the other monkey. And when one didn’t have to do anything to get a grape, the other made the trade for the cucumber only 20% of the time.


Experimental unit _________________

Response variable _________________

Factor _________________

Treatments _________________

Randomization _________________

Result _________________