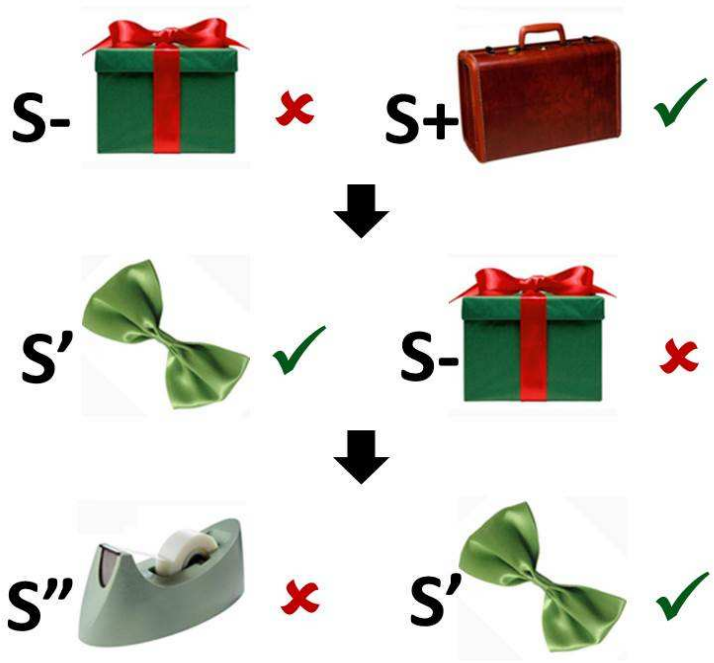
Inference by Exclusion Test



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Example of abstract pictures presented to dogs on the touchscreen and the correct positive and negative associations. The first set of pictures shows two of the eight original stimuli (one positive (S+) and one negative (S-)), which the dogs learnt. The second and third sets display an example of the inference by exclusion test stimuli. Dogs were presented the images without text (i.e. S-,S+,S'and S").

Inference by exclusion test

The Border Collies were shown two pictures on the touchscreen. One of the pictures was new for the animals (S'). The other picture was familiar from the previous learning test, where it had a negative association (S-), so the dogs should identify it as the "wrong" one. The novel picture would be the "correct" one. In another trial soon afterwards the novel picture (S') was again presented, but this time combined with another new and unfamiliar picture (S"). The dogs should select S' as the "correct" picture when choosing via inference by exclusion.