

## Abstract

The thesis focuses on avian social cognition and its experimental methods in laboratory environment. Social cognition is the ability to know each other based on individual experience. Perception, attention, reasoning, memory and communication are the necessary cognitive competence of social cognition. Some cognitive domains are exclusively in social cognition – for example communication, theory of mind etc. Species of birds living in social groups constitute the social environment in which individuals respond to each other. Research subject of this thesis consists of these social interactions.

Emphasis is placed mainly on parrots and corvids. The aim of this study is to review methods which have been used in order to test social cognition as well as critical evaluation of these methods.

Key words: social cognition, cooperation, competition, laboratory tests