

## **Conflict management in aggressive individuals: Do they reconcile?**

*M.M. Kempes, B. Orobio de Castro & E.H.M. Sterck*

Post-conflict friendly behaviour between two former opponents, also called reconciliation, is expected in animals that have valuable social relationships that may be disrupted by a conflict. Such valuable social relationships are found in animals that live in stable social groups, such as rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) and humans. Reconciliation allows both primates and children to stave off the disruptive effects of aggression and enables former opponents to remain in the same group. Since highly aggressive individuals in both rhesus monkeys and humans experience difficulties with both aspects, we were interested in the process of reconciliation in these individuals. In the present study we examined reconciliatory behaviour in both normal and highly aggressive rhesus monkeys and children. In both species aggressive individuals show aberrant aggressive behaviour and are socially incompetent when interacting with group members. In addition, although rates of aggressive and affiliative behaviour were found to be similar between aggressive and normal subjects, both aggressive rhesus monkeys and children do not reconcile. Overall, our results indicate that may similar processes are at the basis of conflict management in primates and humans.