

PAIRED VS. MONADIC:

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

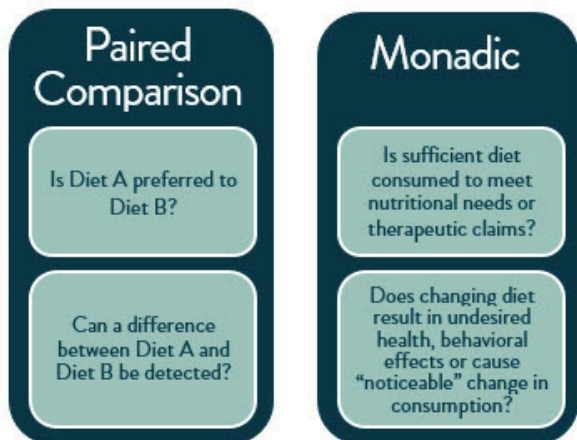
BY: STACEY SCHLANKER, AFB INTERNATIONAL

Paired Comparison assessments can tell us something different than Monadic assessments. Paired Comparison uses two bowls, where two different foods are presented. In Monadic testing, only one bowl of food is presented.

Which one is better? It depends on what question is being asked. The protocols for each assessment provide different insights and data outputs.

Protocols can be tailored to a customer's specific need. The following information discusses the general protocols most widely used.

What Each Assessment Tells Us



Paired Comparison Protocol

- Test diets are the sole source of food and represent the daily caloric need of each animal
- Most commonly 20 animals x 2 days
- Bowls are switched to avoid side preference
- Fed for a specific amount of time depending on the test
- First choice data collected
- Cats
 - » RFID system used to measure amount and frequency of consumption
- Dogs
 - » Food scales linked to a customized program for consumption data analysis
 - » Both bowls are removed when one is emptied

Monadic Protocol

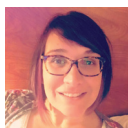
- Test diet is the sole source of food and represents the daily caloric need of each animal
- Sequential, controlling for order effect
 - » Day 1 Diet A; Day 2 Diet B; Day 3 Washout (non-testing diet); Day 4 Diet B; Day 5 Diet A
 - » Provides within-subject, repeated measured data
 - » Inter-trial washout period (other) may be varied
- Consistency of Consumption, often used for in-home testing
 - » "X" days Diet A, then "X" days Diet B; where "X" typically varies from 7-30 days
 - » Only one diet may be fed during this period of time
 - » Longer testing period typically reflects better in-home setting
- Respondents should be evenly distributed across all products as a starting point so there is an equal opportunity of seeing each of the products first

When evaluating which assessment is relevant to the data being generated, use the chart below as an initial guideline.

Insight	Paired Comparison	Monadic
Evaluate Discrimination Abilities of Animals	Yes	No
Typical of an In-Home Setting	No	Yes
Data vs Benchmark*	CR, IR, FC	GC, TTE
Animal Enthusiasm	No	Yes
Acceptance	No	Yes
Test Equivalence of Rations	No	Yes

*Data Definitions:
(CR) Consumption Ratio: Consumed A ÷ Consumed B
(IR) Intake Ratio: Consumed A ÷ (Consumed A + Consumed B)
(FC) First Choice: % Animals eating out of Bowl A first
(GC) Grams Consumed
(TTE) Time to Eat

Knowing what question you are trying to answer or insights you are trying to glean typically points you to the correct assessment. Contact your AFB International account representative to assist you in the decision.



For more information contact **Stacey Schlanker** at sschlanker@afbinternational.com or visit AFB online at afbinternational.com or palatantsplus.com.