

## CHAPTER 6

### IS THERE REALLY A RAINBOW BRIDGE?

Is the sentimental legend of the Rainbow Bridge just a fantasy or do our Scotties really go somewhere over the rainbow to wait for us to join them? The story embodies the belief that love endures forever, and by faith one can choose to live in the land of forever love. Is there an answer to the profound grief suffered over the loss of our canine companions? Do our Scotties go to heaven?

The question cannot be answered for certain one way or another, but in the past twenty-five years, animal behaviorists, psychologists, and even theologians have begun to recognize some of the facts that animal lovers have always known. We know that the evidence for the moral, compassionate, reasoning, and faith behavior of our Scotties is overwhelming and undeniable. Even theologians are having second thoughts about the exclusiveness of human beings in the spiritual realm. The more the “hidden life of dogs” is studied, the more clear it becomes that dogs possess some kind of special relationship with their Creator, a belief held in primitive societies for ages.

The Scotties who share our lives demonstrate without a doubt that they are endowed with a sense of right and wrong, empathy, compassion, humor, joy, grief, guilt, and even faith (in us). As animal behaviorist, Mark Bekoff, observed: “Dogs are thinking animals. They seek the outcomes they want. They avoid the ones they don’t. They solve problems. They have expectations. They have hopes.” Becky made all these assets abundantly clear, as did all of her predecessors. The data is compelling. Two necessary components, consciousness and intelligence, augmented by historic