

as dolphins saving drowning sailors, or dogs or horses leading lost persons to safety? The possibility cannot be dismissed out of hand that they are responding to *their* feelings of a shared consciousness with *us*.

The biologist Lyall Watson has described numerous extraordinary instances wherein persons seem to somehow communicate with other species. [14] In one Polynesian village a man awakens from a dream and goes down to the lagoon, which is some distance away and completely out of sight, to meet the sea turtles or the dolphins because he *knows* that they are there at that very moment, waiting for him. Or he may lean over the rail of the fishing boat, thrust his head under the water, and "know" the direction in which the school of fish lie, how far off they are, and what particular kind of fish are in the school. It may well be that certain physical senses are being utilized in these and similar instances. But we have no known theories to account for them as biology is currently understood.

One person who is convinced that one mind envelopes humans and animals alike is J. Allen Boone. Boone is the eloquent author of *Kinship With All Life*, [15] a movie producer, and the ex-head of RKO movie studios. Boone's experience with Strongheart, an international champion German shepherd and movie celebrity, left a deep impression on him and changed forever his ideas of mind.

When Boone gained possession of this famous dog, he was advised to treat him as though he were an intelligent human being. He was instructed to say nothing to him verbally he did not feel in his heart, and was told to read something worthwhile to him each day. But shortly following Strongheart's arrival at Boone's home, conflicts of life-style arose and Boone complained to the dog. Strongheart listened, then began to pantomime the reasons for his behavior. Boone describes their interchange:

I had spoken to Strongheart in my kind of language, a language of thoughts and feelings incased in human

sound symbols. He had actually been able to receive and understand what I had said. Then he answered me in a kind of language, a language made up of simple sounds and pantomime which he obviously felt I could follow without too much difficulty. Strongheart had understood me perfectly, and then with his keen and penetrating dog wisdom he had made it possible for me to understand him, too. [16]

Sheer fantasy? Was Boone merely projecting his own feelings into the situation? He is certain this was not the case:

For the first time, I was actually conscious of being in rational correspondence with an animal. . . . I had been privileged to watch an animal, acting upon its own initiative, put into expression qualities of independent thinking . . . clear reasoning . . . good judgment . . . foresight . . . prudence . . . common sense. I had been taught to believe these qualities belonged more or less exclusively to the members of the human species, or rather to the "educated members" of our species. And here was a dog overflowing with them! [17]

Boone's experience so far is perhaps not unique. Millions of pet lovers are certain their pets are "part human." But he went further and elaborated in his writing an ethic and a philosophy of universal mind that connects human beings, animals, and all living things—including, it turns out, *flies*.

Following his remarkable experience with the German shepherd Strongheart, Boone made friends with a common housefly he named Freddie. Every morning Freddie greeted Boone by landing punctually on his shaving mirror at seven o'clock. The fly learned to come when called by his name, and Boone would play a game with Freddie. He would invite him to climb aboard his finger, then he would stroke his wings gently. In a variation,