

In another study a boxer was attached to an electrocardiogram (EKG) machine in a soundproof room, while his female owner was separated from him in a distant room. Then without warning to her a stranger burst suddenly into the room and began shouting abusively and threatening her with violence. At that moment the EKG recorded a violent increase in her dog's heartbeat in the soundproof, separate room. [23]

But by far the most remarkable evidence that the mind of animals may violate spatial confinement are the innumerable "lost animal" cases. These are extremely common, and almost everyone has heard of an example or two. They seem so much more intriguing than the artificial experiments set up in laboratories. But this is not surprising. If the ability of the animal mind to transcend time and space arose through the evolutionary process, it most certainly did so in the wild and not in the laboratory. Thus it is not surprising that the strongest demonstration of nonlocal mind in animals, if it exists, would occur in natural settings.

As author Bill Schul points out in his captivating collection of animal stories, *The Psychic Power of Animals*, [24] it really isn't surprising if a creature such as a homing pigeon finds its way home if it is carried in a closed box for miles and then released. It is believed that homing creatures rely on many sorts of cues, such as the positions of sun and stars and geomagnetic fluxes. Yet these explanations don't tell us how animals find unknown destinations or places they've never been.

But great caution is required in evaluating "returning animal" stories. There are a lot of lookalike animals, and the family dog that returns may not be the one that was lost. Yet stringent precautions can be taken to avoid deception, such as in the fifty-four "returning animal" cases collected by Dr. J. B. Rhine and Sara Feather of the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University. Rhine termed this ability in animals "psi trailing" (psi is a Greek letter used to designate a variety of nonlocal parapsychological phenomena). To qualify as a reportable case, the source of information had to be deemed reliable;

there had to be a specific characteristic of the animal, such as a name tag or identifiable scar; the case had to make good general sense and had to be internally consistent; and there had to be adequate supporting data, such as independent corroboration by other observers, or availability of the animal for inspection by the researchers. Fifty of the cases involved dogs or cats, and four involved birds. Almost half the cases involved distances of more than thirty miles. [25]

A typical "psi trailing" case is that of Bobbie, a young female collie. She was traveling with her family from Ohio to their new home in Oregon, to which Bobbie had never been. During a family stop in Indiana, Bobbie wandered off and could not be found. Finally the family abandoned their search and proceeded on their journey. Almost three months later Bobbie appeared at the doorstep of the new home in Oregon. There was no mistaking her: She still had her name collar, in addition to several identifying marks and scars.

When the story hit the papers, a man named Charles Alexander decided to investigate Bobbie's odyssey. He placed ads in newspapers from Indiana to Oregon and turned up a number of people who had cared for a stray collie who matched Bobbie's description during that time period. "When the trail was mapped out it was found that Bobbie picked a very reasonable route with few detours." [26]

A remarkable collection of returning animal cases was assembled by the great Texas naturalist, Roy Bedichek. Bedichek was an eloquent writer (one of the best Texas ever produced, according to another Texan, Pulitzer Prize-winner Larry McMurtry) and an encyclopedic authority on the fauna and flora of the state. During his life Bedichek combed every part of Texas and recorded his observations in arresting prose. One of his favorite haunts was the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge located along the Texas Gulf coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi. This wild land, which serves as wintering grounds for the endangered whooping crane, comprises 47,000 acres of marsh, salt- and freshwater lakes, brushy sand dunes, coastal prairie,