

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of Heaven is a place called The Rainbow Bridge. When each animal dies they arrive at The Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special, someone who was left behind either in reality or the dreams of what should have been for those that never had a special bond, a special friend. Our friends that shared our lives comfort the friendless ones, promising them that their time will come.

Over the hill one by one come many people. They each stop and stare, hearts caught in throats by the majesty of the view. For many there are friends waiting, but more than a few have faced life's burdens alone and come to this haven expecting no one and falling to the ground in despair. As each huddles in his separate, silent misery a small silent form approaches. Soft muzzles are tentatively placed on clenched hands. Tender caresses from paws and fingers, gentle whispers of love pass back and forth. Loneliness meets loneliness and dissolves in joy. Friendless no more, the person and animal unite in joyous contemplation of their new-found special friendship. God in His Wisdom has allowed another chance for those that had none on this earth.

As for the other animals. they all run and play together, but the day comes when they too suddenly stop and look into the distance. Their bright eyes are intent; their eager bodies begin to quiver. Suddenly, they break from the group, flying over the green grass, faster and faster. You have been spotted, and when you and your special friends finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress their beloved heads, and you look once more into those trusting eyes, so long gone from your life, but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.