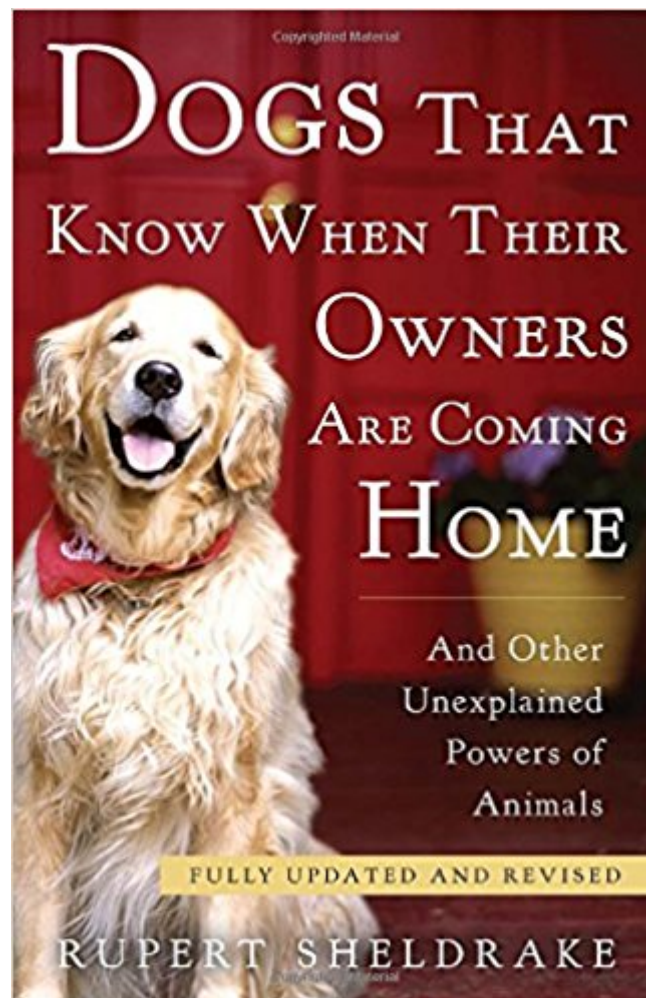




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# Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home: Fully Updated And Revised



## Synopsis

With a scientist's mind and an animal lover's compassion, world-renowned biologist Rupert Sheldrake presents a groundbreaking exploration of animal behavior that will profoundly change the way we think about animals--and ourselves. How do cats know when it's time to go to the vet, even before the cat carrier comes out? How do dogs know when their owners are returning home at unexpected times? How can horses find their way back to the stable over completely unfamiliar terrain? After five years of extensive research involving thousands of people who have pets and work with animals, Dr. Sheldrake proves conclusively what many pet owners already know: there is a strong connection between humans and animals that defies present-day scientific understanding. Sheldrake compellingly demonstrates that we and our pets are social animals linked together by invisible bonds connecting animals to each other, to their owners, and to their homes in powerful ways. His provocative ideas about these social, or morphic, fields explain the uncanny behavior often observed in pets and help provide an explanation for amazing animal behavior in the wild, such as migration and homing. *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home* not only provides fascinating insight into animal, and human, behavior, but also teaches us to question the boundaries of conventional scientific thought, and shows that the very animals who are closest to us have much to teach us about biology, nature, and consciousness.

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## Customer Reviews

It's rare for a book's title to say so clearly what the book is about. In the case of Rupert Sheldrake's

latest work, the controversial content is right on the front cover. Pet owners will see it and smile in recognition; skeptical scientists will shake their heads and mutter about "maverick scholars." We all know of cases of dogs (and cats) who know when their owners are coming home, who go to wait at the door or window 10 minutes or more before their human arrives. Conditioned by the tight rigor of contemporary scientific thinking, we either look for rational explanations or we file the phenomenon away in our minds as "unexplained" and are careful not to talk about it with our scientist friends. Sheldrake has shown in the past that he is not afraid to be labeled a rebel, thanks to his theory of morphic resonance, which suggests the following: Natural systems, or morphic units, at all levels of complexity are animated, organized, and coordinated by morphic fields, which contain an inherent memory. Natural systems inherit this collective memory from all previous things of their kind by a process called morphic resonance, with the result that patterns of development and behavior become increasingly habitual through repetition. Sheldrake believes that the "telepathy" between pets and humans, or between flocks of birds or schools of fish that move as a single organism, can be explained this theory. Sheldrake is less persuaded by anecdotes that suggest animal clairvoyance--warning of something in the near future--but refuses to disallow the possibility. He accepts that the case histories he details so thoroughly in this book are anecdotal, but that makes them no less real; and as a scientist himself he sets up experimental conditions for studying this previously ignored phenomenon that show beyond any doubt that the phenomenon exists. He castigates traditional scientists for their refusal to countenance anything that doesn't fit in with their existing paradigms (or prejudices) and challenges them to come up with some more "acceptable" explanation--but none is forthcoming. This fascinating book is a first attempt at a scientific investigation into a puzzling but quite common occurrence. One hopes that other scientists will follow Sheldrake's brave lead. --David V. Barrett --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

While there have been many books on pets' psychic powers and on animals' seemingly paranormal abilities, English biologist Sheldrake's distinctive contribution is to set forth a theory that begins to make sense of this baffling realm. Sheldrake's bold and influential hypothesis of morphic fields (first developed in his 1988 book *The Presence of the Past*) asserts that members of a group are linked by self-organizing regions of influenceAfields that have a history, evolve, contain a collective memory, and shape the development of organisms, crystals and new ideas, as well as patterns of behavior, adaptation and learning. Applying this hypothesis to the animal kingdom, he maintains that cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and other animals can communicate telepathically with people (or

with other animals) with whom they have emotional bonds. And that morphic fields act as a channel for this ESP. Sheldrake surveyed or interviewed more than 1000 pet owners, dog trainers, veterinarians, zookeepers, blind people with guide dogs, horse trainers and riders and pet-shop proprietors. His study is filled with marvelous stories of missing pets finding their way home over unfamiliar terrain; of cats and dogs responding emotionally, sometimes at a great distance, to the suffering or death of their owners; of animals' precognitive warnings of earthquakes, impending epileptic seizures, bombing attacks and other imminent dangers; of cats, dogs and parrots responding to the ring of the telephone whenever a particular person calls. Skeptics may scoff, yet the cumulative weight of evidence Sheldrake assembles is impressive, and an appendix outlines simple research projects animal lovers can conduct to test whether their pets have psychic powers. This pioneering study throws a floodlight on an area largely ignored by institutional science. Illustrations. Author tour. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Rupert Sheldrake writes engagingly, telling stories to illustrate the abilities of dogs to engage with their humans in ways that suggest extrasensory communication. He also talks about other animals' abilities to communicate, both within their societies, and with the humans in their territories. A lot of this, as he says, is known to those of us who relate closely to animals. The problem he has chosen to tackle is that scientists don't believe this, mostly due to the lack of serious experiments to prove or disprove the presence of such abilities. And that is mostly where my interest waned. I realize that such experiments have to measure up to rigorous criteria. Also, there need to be a multitude of studies over large numbers of subjects. Anything less will be dismissed as mere anecdotal material. So I understand his determination to prove his hypothesis by repetition and quotes from other studies than his own. But the title of the book suggests something more reader friendly, so I was disappointed, and never did finish the book. I skipped and scanned the last third of the text. I did like the fact that he has an extensive bibliography at the back of the book, because I went on to look at some of the books, and found them to be equally interesting. I just think he should have decided which audience he was writing for before he published.

I wish I had read this book years ago so I would have understood our dogs, cats, hamsters, and rabbits a little better! Most especially the dogs though. They all had such a keen instinct when we were coming home from work or when the children's school bus was about to round the corner. And they all seemed to know when it was time to go to bed. If we were not on time it appeared they

often rounded their family up to get ready for bed!

This book is interesting but a little hard to read. The author has years of research to present his ideas of how animals and human beings can relate to each other. Also how animals relate and communicate to each other. The author also presents some of the scientists views who disagree with him.

Extremely interesting research covering not only dogs but other animals and even mankind. Much food for thought. I've always thought we don't consider other animals as close to us as we should with many more things in common than differences including things spiritual as well as physical.

What a delightful book! Even if only half the stories are true, it's fun to read, and if they are all, indeed, true, then it's truly amazing what our pets are really capable of!

Good stories, some more interesting than others. I've always suspected that my Labrador knew when I was coming home but I couldn't figure out who was telling him.

Really thought-provoking. More and more evidence that animals have abilities and senses that we are only just beginning to understand.

There is some interesting info in this book. Some decent stories that seem to prove the connection. Some of the book is repetitive.

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