

# *Animals*

*Animals never belong to us;  
they pass through our lives on  
journeys of their own.*

*They ask no more of us than  
that we love them  
and then let them go on in  
dignity and peace.*

*Animals come and go  
with lessons to learn and  
lessons to teach.*

*So, we love them and learn.*

*We accept the pain of their  
going*

*as we received the joy of their  
coming.*

*All of it is a blessing.*

*--Shirley Thayer*