

10.2 The Thoughts of Animals (p. 255)

Dogs in Heaven?

THE TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS POSITION that animals have no souls implies that they don't go to heaven, of course; and this is troubling to many religious pet-lovers, many of whom want to reinterpret the religious tradition to allow beloved Fido or Tabby to join them in the afterlife. A lively theological debate on this issue has recently been raging on the Internet, sparked by a collection of photos showing debating message-boards supposedly in front of neighbouring churches, the Our Lady of Martyrs Catholic Church and the Beulah Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This debate is too cute to be true, and it turns out, to the surprise of the many people who emailed each other about this, that the photos were faked. But the debate is amusing enough to be reported here. It starts with the Catholic Church's board-message, indicated by C below, and continues with the Presbyterian reply, indicated by P.

- C: All dogs go to heaven
- P: Only humans go to heaven read the bible
- C: God loves all his creations dogs included
- P: Dogs dont have souls this is not open for debate
- C: Catholic dogs go to heaven presbyterian dogs can talk to their pastor
- P: Converting to Catholicism does not magically grant your dog a soul
- C: Free dog souls with conversion
- P: Dogs are animals there arent any rocks in heaven either
- C: All rocks go to heaven¹

¹ To see the photos and read more of the story, go to <<http://www.likeluther.com/?p=30>>.