I am the Dog, I am the Cat

By, Donald Hall and Barry Moser

Dog: I am the dog.

I like bones.

I like to *bury* bones.

As for eating, I can take it or leave it-

but I like it when *they* feed me.

Cat: I am the cat.

I don’t care whether they feed me or not

as long as I get fed.

Sometimes I tease them to feed me,

Then turn up my nose at what I get.

Dog: Making the acquaintance of babies,

I allow them to pull my hair.

I do not like it,

but I allow it, for

I am the dog.

Cat: When babies come into the house,

I try to *vanish.*

Babies are crazy!

Babies *sit* on you!

Dog: I am brave as I bark

to frighten the burglar

disguised as a UPS man,

or the kidnapper who pretends to be a bicyclist

wanting a drink of water.

Cat: Strangers are just fine

If I feel like a lap, I feel like a lap.

Why should I care what they feel like?

Dog: I sleep all day in order to stay rested,

in order to be alert

when it is my duty to bark.

DOG: After I sleep all day,

I sleep all night, for

I am the dog.

Cat: Cats work hard.

When people and dogs are asleep,

I never stop hunting mice.

In the absence of mice,

I hunt pieces of paper, paper clips, or rubber bands.

Dog: When I swim in the pond,

I bark at minnows.

Then I shake water on you, for

I am the dog.

Cat: I keep myself clean.

What if the president dropped by?

Cat: Dogs are nervous and well-meaning.

It is well-known that cats

are at the same time

independent,

selfish,

fearless,

beautiful,

cuddly,

scratchy,

and intelligent

DOG: Cats just don’t care.

Only a dog

is at the same time

dignified,

guilty,

sprightly,

obedient,

friendly,

vigilant,

and soulful.