

SCOTTIE SEMAPHORE

My Scottie sometimes talks to me,
but not in sounds that can be heard.
He sends his message silently
without the need to speak a word.

He knows how to communicate
exactly what is on his mind.
He lets his tail articulate
and signals me with his behind.

A tail waved horizontally
reveals he's found some interest
while one that's sagging droopily
is proof he spent most of his zest.

A tail held stiff and quivery,
completely straight and plumb upright,
is fair warning delivery:
Prepare for courting—or a fight.

There are some other signs to know,
like tail tucked down when he feels fear,
or wildly waving to and fro
when he sees friends are coming near.

The word we share that I like best
is "Come." He listens eagerly,
quick flicks his tail at that request
then races wagging straight to me.

by Lee Netzler