

TRAINERS AND TRAINEES

Disturbed by squeaking from his crate
I waken from a sound night's sleep
where my lone care was counting sheep
to worry I may be too late.

I'm answering a puppy's cry.
It's 3 a.m., but is all well?
There's one sure-fire way to tell
and that's if everything is dry.

In terms that make it sound polite
"crate training" is the name for this
disruption to my sleeping bliss
that interrupts a peaceful night.

To wake me up it used to take
tornadoes, hail and thunderstorms,
But I've been changed by his reforms
and with one whine I'm wide awake.

I marvel at the ground we've gained
to teach him when and where to pee,
and pleased to see he's being trained,
and well aware he's training me.

by Lee Netzler