

FRIENDLY?

“My dog is friendly,” they will say,
“Is your dog friendly, too?”
My answer changes day to day
by what I see them do.

When their dog’s leash is lacking slack,
its eyes are fixed on us,
hair raised, tail down and ears laid back,
those signs mean dangerous.

I’m not about to loosen line
and risk a dog attack.
“A friendly dog?” you ask. “Not mine.
You’d better hold yours back.”

Sometimes we’ll see the opposite:
a gentle atmosphere
creating trust so we feel fit
to greet them without fear.

So if you are the former kind
I’ll say, “My dog will bite!”
But if the latter, you will find
that we will greet you right.

by Lee Netzler