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The Ontology of Dogs

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THE ONTOLOGY OF DOGS

Jack Ridl

Our dog cannot overcome
his happiness. The birds
around our house peck along
the gravel walks. He sits,
looks out across the back field. He
sleeps, his great head turned left
over his paws, sits up when
a rabbit or squirrel runs past
the window. He loves his walk,
loves smelling the same smells
rising from the mud, hanging
along the leaves, sticking to the stems
and trunks. When I come home,
he meets me at the door,
his tail wagging, his back side
wiggling. He pushes his head
between my legs, snorts, then
nudges me toward his basket
of biscuits. When I give him
one, he carries it to the door.
I let him out. He pees.
He lies down in the tall grass.
I imagine how his good nose
leaves us all behind.