# I never knew there could be two bests

Carol Mattinson

My dog Pippa and her best friend Jack
a best friend from whom she could learn
how to be the best dog in the neighbourhood.

Now the best dog in the neighbourhood
requires being as kind as can be.

Watching people walking by
and choosing
just who needs to give extra pats,
to stop and not move.
Not one inch.

If there is something of interest to you
not distracted by the tug on the lead,
or someone encouraging
you to move along.

No. To be the best dog in the neighbourhood
you need to sit still,
until what you see is no longer in view.

My dog Pippa
learnt from her best friend Jack
how to be the best dog in the neighbourhood.

Old and young people stop to say hello
and the adults often leave saying 'you made my day,'
while the children gather
in little groups
to visit the best dog in the neighbourhood.

There's nothing to worry about
when you have the best dog.

They are happy every day with everything.

They snuggle up close in the early hours
from sleeping in other rooms as pups
until they've made it onto the bed.

I am so grateful
my dog Pippa learnt from her best
friend Jack.

How to be the best dog in the neighbourhood.



Carol Mattison lives and works in Palmerston North and together with her labrador Pippa, enjoys the close proximity to the sea, mountains, and the Ruahine ranges. She is an advanced trainee in psychodrama and completed her thesis a number of years ago. Carol works as a counsellor, supervisor and group worker in the community. She recently started to work voluntarily in an organisation providing a community meals for about 200 people.