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Marc Berman

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The Two Emotions of Dogs

by Marc Berman

The dog drinks water
with pursed lips through a straw.
We laugh. It’s so goofy.
Who taught her this trick?

The dog, humiliated,
slinks into the pantry,
stares at kibbles
in her crusty old bowl,

and because hope is
the other emotion of dogs,

she hopes for gravy
soft meat scraps,
some egg yolks set aside
on the stovetop,

hopes that the laughter
that pings in her curly brown ears
is surely directed
at others.