

# Growl: Another Parody

(With apologies to Allen Ginsberg but not to *Philip Larkin*)

By [Kenneth Francis](#) (October 2018)



*Black Haired Woman Holding Handkerchief with Crying Dog*, Arthur Boyd, 1983

I saw the best dogs of my neighbourhood destroyed by worms,  
distemper and chicken-wing bones, starving hysterical mongrels  
and thoroughbreds,

dragging themselves through Fido-fumed streets at dawn looking  
for lampposts and fire hydrants to relieve themselves on,  
  
pointy-headed Dobermans burning for the heavenly scent to the  
butchers and grocer's laneway in the dead of night,  
  
where juicy steak bones, cookies and peanut butter lie  
scattered in supernatural darkness of inner-city flats  
floating across the tops of cities contemplating chew toys,  
tennis balls and other doggy treats,  
  
who bared their snouts to Heaven under flea-ridden kennels and  
saw miniature poodles staggering on tenement roofs  
illuminated,  
  
who passed through empty pet cemeteries with radiant, runny  
eyes hallucinating Lassie and Old Shep among other breeds of  
yore,  
  
who were expelled from their shelters for trashing and pooping  
their kennel floor  
  
Who saw Golden Retrievers torn and in tatters, savaged by  
packs of Black Labs Matters  
  
who cowered in straw-filled rooms listening to the meowing of  
felines through the animal-rescue walls, while moggy lovers  
chanted: *Out with the mongrels, bring back the cat, euthanasia  
for pitbulls—how 'bout that!*

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