Alabama Hound

On a rural highway Thoughts on the destination The eye captures a blur A fleeting image.

A picture emerges Evokes sadness, pity For the hapless creature In the mind's eye.

A gaunt, starving hound Scavenging the roadside Seeking sustenance Abandoned and alone.

A trusting bond broken By a human pack Indifferent to dependence Bred into the hound.

Trust and companionship Your gift freely given Betrayal your reward Despair, suffering and death.

The moment to act passed Anguish still floods my being Tears feel my eyes Cannot wash away the guilt.

A living symbol Serving as a message To those who can read Keep faith with the web of life.