book reviews

SUBTEXTS

Fur your consideration

A full-body wag, according to a character in Lisa Gray Fisher's new novel Full Body Wag (Sunstone Press), is when you have more happiness than your tail can demonstrate. That's certainly an image that any dog lover can understand and appreciate.

The author has lived in Northern New Mexico for more than 25 years and has been chair of the English department at Santa Fe Preparatory School since 1995. Her book is a celebration of the joy of writing and an homage to dogs (though it is not a collection of tales about canines). It explores the stories of a group of women taking a community-college creative-writing class in New Mexico (the women insist on holding class in a different place every week, including a hot tub, a teepee, and a graveyard) and a band of men making a low-budget horror film (involving a big lobster suit) in Arizona. Fisher's characters get a kick out of the creative process, regardless of whether there's any possible commercial outcome. They love life, women, men, dogs, and most importantly, telling stories.

Fisher reads from her book at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, at Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo St., 988-4226.

