



# Area Pet Professionals Get Nosey With Dogs

*Laura Hills Presents K9 Nose Work at **HEART** Meeting*

Kansas City, MO – May 18, 2015

Laura Hills of The Dog's Spot Dog Training Center was the featured speaker and host of the May meeting of the **HEART**land Positive Dog Training Alliance (**HEART**). Hills, a longtime member of **HEART** and a well-known member of the Kansas City area training community spoke to fellow **HEART** members about K9 Nose Work®.

K9 Nose Work is a relatively new training and competitive activity created and governed by the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW™). Any dog can learn it because it builds on the strongest impulse most dogs have – following their nose. Dogs learn to search for specific scents, then locate and signal the handler when the scent has been located. For many dogs it's a great way to develop confidence and focus as well as strengthening the bond with the handler.

To participate in any K9 Nose Work competitions, dogs and handlers must first pass a timed Odor Recognition Test. K9 Nose Work competitions, called trials, consist of 3 levels of competition and all participants start at level 1. Each level requires that the dog and handler locate and indicate a specific scent hidden in a group of containers, in an interior room, outdoors and in/around vehicles. Participant dogs must be registered with the NACSW and handlers must hold membership in the NACSW.

Professional dog trainers can become certified by the NACSW as Certified Nose Work Instructors (CNWI™) or Associate Nose Work Instructors (ANWI™).

**About NACSW.** The National Association of Canine Scent Work is the official sanctioning and organizing body for the sport of K9 Nose Work. Ron Gaunt, Amy Herot and Jill-Marie O'Brien founded the NACSW™ to ensure the highest standard of excellence for competitors in the sport of K9 Nose Work® and to cultivate a community of enthusiastic dog lovers and dog sport competitors. The first official NACSW™ trial was held in January of 2009, in Southern California, and since then there have been over 135 trials in 17 states. For more information, visit [www.nacsw.net](http://www.nacsw.net).

**About Laura Hills.** Laura Hills (BA, VSPDT, CPDT-KSA, KPA CTP) is owner of The Dog's Spot Dog Training Center in Gladstone, MO. She has earned multiple agility titles, trained shelter dogs for theatrical roles, is an active member of the Kansas City area dog training community and is passionate about the use of positive, force-free dog training. Learn more about Laura and The Dog's Spot Dog Training Center at [www.thedogsspot.com](http://www.thedogsspot.com)

**HEARTland Positive Dog Training Alliance** is a group of like-minded individuals comprised of dog trainers, pet professionals and dog enthusiasts aligning themselves to create an awareness of the importance and benefits of positive reinforcement, force free dog training. For more information, visit [www.trainerswithheart.com](http://www.trainerswithheart.com).

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