

# HEEL.SIT.NEWS

*Weekly Kennel Happenings*



WHAT'S INSIDE?

**TRAINING CHALLENGE**

**EVENTS AND OUTINGS**

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK**

**MATCH MAKING ADS**

## MUD SEASON IS HERE

*by Cara Burns*

I'm not sure if this is fake spring or if we're in for another freeze but we are on week two or three, honestly I've lost count, of mud and gross. We do our best to clean dogs up before they go home, but some dogs are more patient about grooming than others. I would recommend investing in seat covers and keeping towels in the trunk. We love having the dogs there is nothing at the kennel that can't be cleaned but it's kind of a play at your own risk of mud situation.

## FOOD GAMES

*by Cara Burns*

We are incorporating more food enrichment into our program. We use treats through out the day to encourage and reward good behavior but also to build relationships and impulse control. We keep a variety of treats in house but if your dog has dietary restrictions please let us know. You are welcome to send your own treats if needed so your dog doesn't miss out on the fun.

# LEARNING CHALLENGE

by Cara Burns

Each week we are going to do a training challenge to motivate us all to keep working our dogs. I will announce the challenge in the newsletter but you can find video tips on our TikTok, Facebook, or Instagram. I encourage you to post your own videos on our Facebook page to inspire others.

This week we are starting with nose touch. Nose touch is a cute trick but it also has many uses. It is a great way to distract and redirect a dog when needed. It is a great force free way to position a dog's body where you need it. It is also a great way to get your dog back when your recall may be failing. It's also a great way gateway to other tricks.

## HOW TO TEACH IT:

The best way to start this trick is with a stinky slimy treat. Hot dogs, cheese, or eggs are great options because they will leave smell and even grease on your hand which encourages a dog to sniff your hand.

I like to start this trick sitting on the floor with the dog. Sitting helps draw a dog in and lets them know you aren't going to be moving around but staying and focusing in one spot. Show your dog the treats and then holding your hand close to your dog's nose touch the treat to your palm. When your dog goes in to sniff where the treat was use a marker cue to tell them it was the right thing and then give them the treat. You can simply say "yes" as your marker word or you can use a clicker to mark. Either way mark the touch right as it happens and then reward right after.



I usually will do this several times with out using a verbal command to be sure my dog is getting what I want. Once they are touching my hand consistently then I will start saying touch.

If that is going well then put your hand out with out touching it with the treat and wait and see if your dog will still touch. Make sure your hand is very close to their nose so they only have to turn their head slightly to touch your hand. If they do it mark and reward. If they do not then go back to touching your hand with the treat several more times and then try again.

As they get better at it start moving your hand further away from their nose and placing it in different positions. For more help check out our social media videos.



It is always good to train new things in a small space where your dog can't opt to go find other things to do. I also recommend picking up all toys, bones, and other distractions and put all other animals away. These things will help your dog stay focused on you. Whenever we ask for a new behaviors dogs may be easier to distract.

## EVENTS AND OUTINGS

### DOG SHOWS:

#### AGILITY NADAC TRIAL

**NADAC – QUAD CITY DOG CENTER  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
MARCH 18 – 22**

#### AKC RALLY TRIAL

**IOWA CITY DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB  
AMANA, IOWA  
APRIL 8 – 10**

#### AGILITY NADAC TRIAL

**NADAC – QUAD CITY DOG CENTER  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
APRIL 23 – 24**

#### FRISBEE LEAGUE

**K9 TOSS & FETCH FRISBEE LEAGUE  
TBA – DATES MAY ALSO CHANGE  
APRIL 21, 28 & MAY 5,12,19**

#### AKC RALLY TRIAL

**SCOTT COUNTY KENNEL CLUB  
DAVENPORT, IOWA  
MAY 12 – 15**

### OUTINGS:

**AS WARMER WEATHER APPROACHES  
LOOK HERE FOR PLACES THE HEEL.SIT  
DOGS WILL BE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WE OFTEN ATTEND VENDOR FAIRS AND  
POP UP AT OUR FAVORITE LOCAL SPOTS  
AND PATIOS. WE ALSO HOST THE  
OCCASIONAL PACK WALK AND PUBLIC  
TRAINING SESSION. JOIN US FOR A  
DIFFERENT TAKE ON DOG EDUCATION.**

### NADAC:

is our agility organization of choice these days. We find the atmosphere to be fun and welcoming for the kids and all breeds of dogs. We are super lucky in the Quad Cities to have a top notch competition venue like the Quad City Dog Center to show at. They host events from a variety of organizations each month.

### Rally Obedience:

We show in Rally Obedience because we find it to be a more laid back fun way to test our dogs obedience skills. If you are looking for a good intro to dog sports Rally is a great way to start.



### Frisbee League:

We run a K9 Frisbee Toss and Fetch League Spring through Fall. We play once a week at a designated field. If your dog likes to catch frisbees and has a reliable recall join us for a fun low pressure sport that competes against clubs from all over the world.



We have a lot of great dogs come through our doors each week and we want to highlight them here each week as a way to recognize their hard work and cuteness.

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK JAXSON

Jaxson is a two year old golden retriever who started as a training client. After a few sessions we hit a bit of a wall because of his overall anxiety. We decided that some one on one time in our day training program might be useful and from there we have seen this boy blossom in many ways. He is more confident and more relaxed in general which makes working towards his specific goals easier. It's been pleasure to watch his progress and have him in our daycare group.



Each week we spot light a Heel.Sit employee who has gone above and beyond.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK KOLSCH:

This week's employee of the week is our dear sweet angel baby Kolsch, or Koli. Many people would think a two year old border collie would be hard to manage but Kolsch brings just the right balance to our six pack with her easy going attitude and absolute love of naps. Last week when Josh was gone Kolsch stepped up and filled the vital role of sleep support and kept the cuddles in full supply. She also took on the role of fun police ensuring that no puppies had any fun on her watch. Heel.Sit would be lost without her.



## PERSONAL ADS

Heel.Sit believes there is a dog for everyone! Finding the right match can be tricky but we are here to help. In this space we post dogs we currently have in foster and will spot light other dogs in need of a home. If you are thinking of purchasing a puppy or adopting from a shelter and would like us to evaluate the dog or breeder please reach out. This service is free because finding you the right dog makes our work easier! If you are thinking of bringing a dog into your life it is vital to shop or adopt responsibly from ethical breeders and rescues.

## DOGS LOOKING FOR HUMANS:

**LEIA** BREED: TERRIER MIX  
AGE: LESS THAN A YEAR



Leia is our only in house foster at the moment. She has been with us for quite awhile because we wanted to have her spay completed and all her vaccines up to date. She is a week out from her spay and doing great. She is an incredibly sweet girl and a genius. Her intelligence does sometimes get her into trouble as she is constantly busy. If you don't have things for her to do she will find something herself. She is crate trained and does well in her kennel. We have been working on agility and rally foundation work with her and she excels at both. She would be really great at scent work or barn hunt as well. I think she would be best suited for a dog sport home.

She would also do well on a farm. She is oddly a great mouser and has incredible prey drive. She is fine with smaller dogs and I think she would be okay with cats as long as she was introduced carefully to them. If you think you know of a good placement for Leia message Heel.Sit for more info. In the meantime she will go back in to our training program. If you were hoping to get into dog sports and would like a dog that already has a good start I would highly recommend meeting her!

**IF YOU HAVE A DOG LOOKING FOR A HOME OR WOULD  
LIKE A RESCUE DOG SPOT LIGHTED IN OUR NEWSLETTER  
MESSAGE HEEL.SIT**