



# **HEART Kicks Off 2016 With Sheldon!**

## **A Good Dog That Dislikes Strangers**

***HEART** Teams Assess & Recommend Training Approaches*

Kansas City, MO – January 18, 2016

For their first meeting of 2016, **HEART**land Positive Dog Training Alliance hosted Sheldon, a 7+ year old Chihuahua mix, and his humans. Sheldon's mom & dad, both former members of the U.S. military who heard about **HEART** through the **Pets for Vets** program, have struggled to help Sheldon overcome growling and biting strangers and others who "get in his space".

**HEART** members formed two assessment teams and spent time observing Sheldon and his family, interacting with him, asking questions to understand the history and behavior patterns, dialoguing with each other to develop recommendations, and finally, presenting their approaches to all present.

For **HEART** members, the meeting was an opportunity to work as part of a group, comparing observations, consider and discuss proposed training techniques, and collaborate on a plan for treatment. For Sheldon's parents, the meeting was a unique opportunity to present Sheldon's case to a number of pet professionals at the same time and to consider the questions asked and the proposals given.

**HEART**'s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21. Meeting location and other details will be available on the **HEART** website ([www.trainerswithheart.com](http://www.trainerswithheart.com)).

**About Pets for Vets.** Pets for Vets is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing a second chance for shelter pets by rescuing, training and pairing them with America's veterans who could benefit from having a companion animal. There are currently 34 chapters across the United States. For more information, visit [www.petsforvets.com](http://www.petsforvets.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).

###