

THE ALIEN

technology ("TV") *Hack*

MR. ROGERS "Big Idea"

WHEN to use it

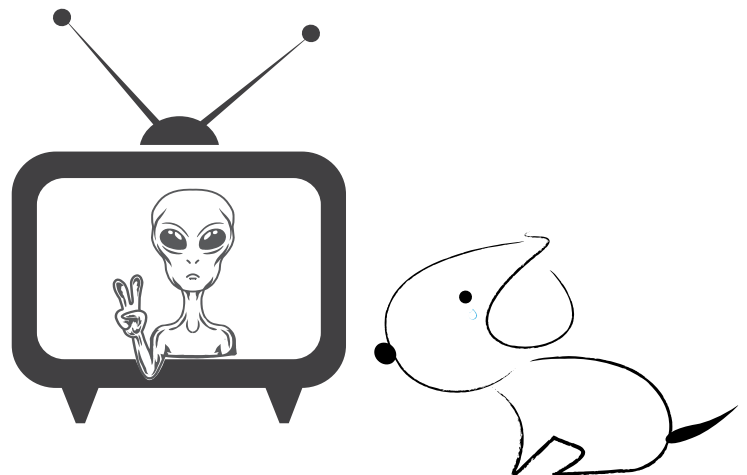
Whenever your dog orients on the sounds (or sights/lights) of our modern technological devices with interest or concern.

It's a GREAT idea to use this concept to help them to understand that those stimuli coming from our modern gadgets are not "real" from our dog's perspective.

Think about how confusing it must be to hear and see things like people, dogs, other animals, voices, faces, etc. coming out of black boxes if you had no point of reference for what technology is. This is like [The "Neighbor"hood Hack](#) for all devices and technology. A predictor of neutrality and safety.

HOW it works

For the same reason that The "Neighbor"hood Hack works, The Alien Technology "TV" Hack provides our dogs with the valuable intel that the sensory information coming from our modern devices (E) is neutral and not threatening to them (L). In this case, the sensory information that our dogs are perceiving - that there are people, animals, vehicles, danger, excitement, etc. in the room with us (E) - is not REAL. It's just the "TV". It's pretend, limited to the confines of the box that produces the signals. Since our dogs do not naturally understand them (G), we have to prevent or respond to their stress/anxiety/arousal (S) by explaining they're safe.



HOW to use it

Every time your dog notices a sound or sight coming from any alien technology device, explain to your dog that it's just "TV". Show them where the sensory information is coming from if they do not know already the source of the sound, and either go and touch the device/screen or hold it out for them to see/smell. You want to show them that it's safe and not "real". And just like we did for The "Neighbor"hood Hack, you can distinguish the different devices and things for your dog while also explaining that the concept is the same of "TV":

You're watching a show on TV that has barking dogs on it - "TV puppies"

You're watching a video on your phone of your friend, Bob - "TV Bob"

Your phone starts making weird noises - "TV phone"

There are scary looking angry faces in the movie - "TV Neighbors"

There are no wrong words or phrases when it comes to this hack or any other Mr. Rogers Big Idea Hacks - just choose the words and phrases that make the most sense to you and be consistent!

