#### Family Dog Mediation



# THE "NEIGHBOR" hood

## MR. ROGERS "Big Idea"

#### WHEN to use it

To answer one of your dog's greatest constant questions:

"Do I need to worry about that?"

This Mr. Rogers Big Idea can be used both inside your house as well as out and about in the great big world, to answer one of your dog's greatest constant questions about all of the people, animals, vehicles, and machines out there in this busy modern world of ours (with all the sights, sounds, smells, and sensations that go along with them). This is especially helpful for dogs who are worried about/barking at people, dogs, cars, workers, etc. outside the home, when walking, and in public places.

### **HOW** it works

The modern world (**E**) is filled with all kinds of people, animals, vehicles, machines, etc. that our dogs are genetically wired to notice as meaningful (**L**) to various degrees as the species and breed that they are (**G**). Given that most dogs are now living as pets in urban and suburban conditions flooded with high volumes of such stimuli in the background of their lives (**E**), many dogs experience high levels of concern / anxiety (**S**) towards these common

elements in their world. Dogs do not know what we know (L) - that the vast majority of these things are neutral and have no effect on them or us in any way (L).

It is important to have a term that predicts (L) that a given player or event won't directly intrude, interact with, or effect them at all.



















#### **HOW** to use it

Whenever your dog attends/reacts to something in the environment. Whether inside your home, on a walk, in the car, or in any other location, you can use this concept term as a qualifier to explain that the labeled thing or event falls into the neutral/irrelevant/not our business category of stuff that stays off our property / away from us. You will, therefore, never label someone or something a "neighbor", if your dog IS going to interact with/meet/be touched by/have direct dealings with them. You'll use a different concept term for those.

i.e. "friend". Also, use "neighbor" as a qualifier for the other things you are using Mr. Rogers for:

- "Neighbor" harmless neutral people who stay away.
- "Neighbor puppy" harmless neutral dogs who stay away.
- "Neighbor car/truck" harmless neutral vehicles that stay away.
- "Neighbor kitty" harmless neutral cats that stay away.
- "Neighbor working" harmless neutral sights and sounds around us that stay away.

When first introduced as a concept, this hack can be paired with The Step Up Hack and/or The Game Show

Hack for optimal results, as most dogs

need to experience our demonstration that there is no need for alarm via our social signaling/cutoff signals/running interference. We explain through our consistent actions of removing our dog from their post and alarm while telling them "that's just a neighbor...." that they simply have the wrong idea about the thing and that there's no cause for concern or need to take action towards these neutral events/players we have the scoop on.

