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Subject: Emailing: hc-cl-pets-0705,0,3927851
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Place Ad	A Salute To Captain Arthur Haggerty	advertisements
Shopping	July 5, 2006	
Jobs	By STEVE DALE, Tribune Media Services	
Cars	Ask dog trainers to name the most influential trainer of all time. You won't hear the name Barbara Woodhouse (the	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> UTILITIES <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail story <input type="checkbox"/> Most e-mailed stories <input type="checkbox"/> Printer-friendly version </div>
Real Estate	British woman who called out, "walkies!") and for sure it's	
Classified	not Cesar Milan, the latest flavor of the month who	
Pets	appears on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." One name you will hear is Captain Arthur Haggerty.	
Pets Home Page	On July 3, Haggerty died of adenocarcinoma at age 74.	
Sell a Pet	It's true, the death the previous week of Eddie, the dog	
My Pet World	on the TV show "Frasier," may have triggered more	
Pet Memorials	headlines, but those who write about and train dogs certainly took notice of the captain's passing.	
Gift Shop		
Pets Community	Babette Haggerty-Brennan, Captain Haggerty's daughter, a dog trainer in Palm Beach, FL, says that shortly after	
Animal Shelters	her dad died, a family friend posted the notice on the Internet. Within 10 minutes, she was inundated with	
Event Calendar	condolences. And her email box was filled for days.	
Contact Us	The Captain was at one time a familiar name to the public. No one person did more to popularize dog training	
Dating	as a profession. In 1961, he opened his Tri-State School	
Weddings	for Dogs in New York, at a time when few people	
Engagement	bothered to take their dogs to be trained. He was the first	
Obituaries	dog trainer to the stars, and was the first to talk about	
News	training dogs on TV, chatting on talk shows with Johnny Carson and Mike Douglas. While he knew how to joke	
Site Tools	around on TV, he took the professional seriously. Babette says she's hearing from all kinds of dog trainers, even	
Yellow Pages	those same trainers her dad called "namby pamby."	
Maps		
Traffic	In a 2004 interview, the Captain told me, "We have a	
Weather	nation filled with sissy dogs. Those TPR's (trainers using	
Site Map	total positive reinforcement) don't get the job done."	
RSS Feeds	"It seems he paved the way," says Babette. "(Trainers)	
Services	acknowledge what my dad's done and respect him. To my dad, the profession always came second, and the dogs	

came first – and nothing else mattered. His mantra was, 'Remember, it's about the dogs.' He was able to rise above personalities; it was all about the dogs, and getting results."

I first met Haggerty 12 years ago at a Dog Writer's Association of America dinner held to present awards. I had won several, and an imposing, even intimidating, figure with a shaved head stood up. He stood 6-foot-three but somehow seemed larger than life. I knew this was the legendary Captain Haggerty. I was shaking in my boots and instantly understood how dogs obeyed him. I was ready to obey him.

I had seen his photo but in person he looked, well, familiar, as if I'd met him before. His voice was surprisingly soft, even warm as he congratulated me. Ever eager for press, he then rattled off some projects he was working on and pitched me story ideas. Then he put his arm around my neck, with hands larger than a Grizzly's paws, and said, "Hey, kiddo, let's talk."

Well, that's not quite how it went. I mostly listened. He spoke about those namby-pamby trainers, about training dogs for the military (which he did for years), about his commitment to writing about dogs truthfully and accepting them for what they are without anthropomorphizing.

Only years later did I realize why he looked strangely familiar. His skills transcended beyond a leash. As an actor, Haggerty appeared in character roles in many movies, including "The Great Gatsby" and "The Eyes of Laura Mars." He was also the star of many TV commercials, which included his most famous role of all: the original Mr. Clean.

When he wasn't on a sound stage, Haggerty taught dogs to act; his four-legged students appeared in nearly 500 TV commercials and on various TV soap operas.

His credits are unparalleled. He trained dogs until the very end, for over five decades in all. His resume is astounding. And he was never shy about offering his credits to you or offering his opinions. If the Captain was thinking it, you'd know it, and the dogs he was training would know it. He was clear; nothing ambiguous about him.

"That's a part of the secret," he once said. "The dogs don't have to wonder about me; they know exactly what I want."

He went into the Army in 1951 and into combat in Korea. He went on to manage the Army Canine Corps at Fort Benning, GA. He was the dog training officer at the Army Dog Training Center at Fort Carson, CO. While at the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon at Ford Ord, CA, he conducted training experiments involving over 500 tests dealing with mine detection work. His

groundbreaking work is still considered the foundation for how the military utilizes mine-detecting dogs.

Haggerty returned to civilian life and opened the dog school but he remained a Captain throughout his life. "Well, I am a Captain," he explained. "Listen, it's about marketing. I saw that successful trainers had their own names on the doors. But how about a name people would remember? It also made sense for me to use the same name I used as an actor. Then, there's the image. A captain is a leader, a person who can take command of a dog, a tough guy – that's me."

The marketing approach worked. Soon, the Captain developed a persona as a sort of General Patton of dogs.

He was Hugh Heftner's dog trainer, and got press, so he continued training celebrity dogs. Long before David Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks, one could argue that Haggerty invented the idea, appearing on talk shows with dogs doing, well, stupid tricks. No wonder Letterman used Haggerty 26 time times on his famous feature. In 2002, he authored, "How to Teach Your Dog to Talk," his fifth book.

But Haggerty was far more serious than that. He wrote 200 papers on dogs, dog training and behavior. He traveled around the world training police dogs. He also trained dogs for just about anything and everything dogs can do, ranging sled dogs to schutzhund to guide dog work.

Haggerty told me, "Too much is being made of technique and equipment. All these people saying, 'I was the first to use food,' or 'I was the first to do this or the first to do that.' The bottom line is helping the client and helping the dog. End of story."

For some, this question might be a sensitive one, but not for Haggerty, so I went ahead and asked, "How would you like this for your eulogy? 'He was an annoying and grating individual but he loved dogs. He saved lives. He got the job done. End of story.'"

His response is ebullient, "I like that," and he laughed. "But I'm not going anywhere, not as long as there are dogs for me to train."

If all dogs go to heaven – he'll have plenty to do.

Steve Dale welcomes questions/comments from readers. Although he can't answer all of them individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Steve at Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY 14207. Send e-mail to PETWORLD (at)AOL.com. Include your name, city and state. Listen to Steve Dale's WEEKLY RADIO SHOW, "Pet Central," on Saturdays at www.wgnradio.com; or Steve's syndicated radio shows: "Steve Dale's Pet World" and "The Pet Minute." Learn more at www.petworldradio.net

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