

Haggerty, show biz dog trainer, dies at 74

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Capt. Arthur J. Haggerty, an author and dog trainer who supplied dogs for Broadway and the military, has died. He was 74.

Haggerty died of cancer July 3 in Hospice of Palm Beach County, his daughter Babette Haggerty-Brennan said Saturday.

As a scout-dog training officer with the Army at Fort Carson, Colo., Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Benning, Ga., Haggerty rose to the rank of captain — a title he used for the duration of his professional career.

Haggerty, who received three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star in the Korean War, also trained and supplied dogs for the Vietnam War, his daughter said.

He went on to open Captain Haggerty's School for Dogs in New York City, where he trained avalanche dogs, messenger dogs, attack dogs and celebrity dogs.

He trained the dog Sandy for his role in the Broadway production of "Annie" and supplied dogs for several soap operas, including "As The World Turns" and "All My Children." He also appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" more than a dozen times.

"Back when he started out, people didn't train dogs," Haggerty-Brennan said. "He kind of started the whole industry. What made him so special is that he taught so many people that you can train your dog, there's hope for your problem dog."

Haggerty worked on more than 150 feature films and 450 commercials with dogs and other animals. He also had small parts in several movies, including "Married to the Mob" and "Honeymoon in Vegas."

He also wrote the books "Dog Tricks," "How to Get Your Pet Into Show Business" and "How to Teach Your Dog to Talk."

Haggerty is survived by his daughter. A funeral is scheduled Aug. 8 in New York City.

On the Net:

Haggerty Dog Training: <http://www.haggertydog.com/index.html>

July 15, 2006 - 6:23 p.m. EDT

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