

Noted Movie Dog Trainer Tells How To Teach Fido Tricks

German Expert's Large School Has Extensive Curriculum For Canines

CARL SPITZ, an affable, bald German, is President and Professor-at-large of one of the most unusual schools in the world.

His educational mart is an exclusive one and judging from outward appearances, expensive, also. It offers two courses grammar and high school. The curriculum afforded, however, does not mitigate the fact that it is one of the noisiest schools in the country.

All of his pupils are—dogs. To this school daily rich women holding pampered pets on their ample laps draw up in shiny black limousines. Movie stars in flashy roadsters appear, accompanied by pedigreed pups on leash. Serious-minded business men walk into the big iron gate with barking canines by their side.

All want Carl Spitz to teach their dog "some kind of trick." Consequently, Teacher Spitz' training school is an aristocratic, lively place.

The buildings stretch over an area of 10 acres under the bright sun in San Fernando Valley, about three miles from Van Nuys, Calif. Like every well-regulated school, it has its dormitories, its modern sanitary kitchens, its chef to cook special doggy foods and one of the most elaborate gyms in the country.

The courses taught by Spitz are patterned after those now being offered by the German government for the training of "war" dogs. In Germany, Spitz explained, the training of dogs for army service is considered as important as training aviators to fly. A few years later he brought his knowledge to California.

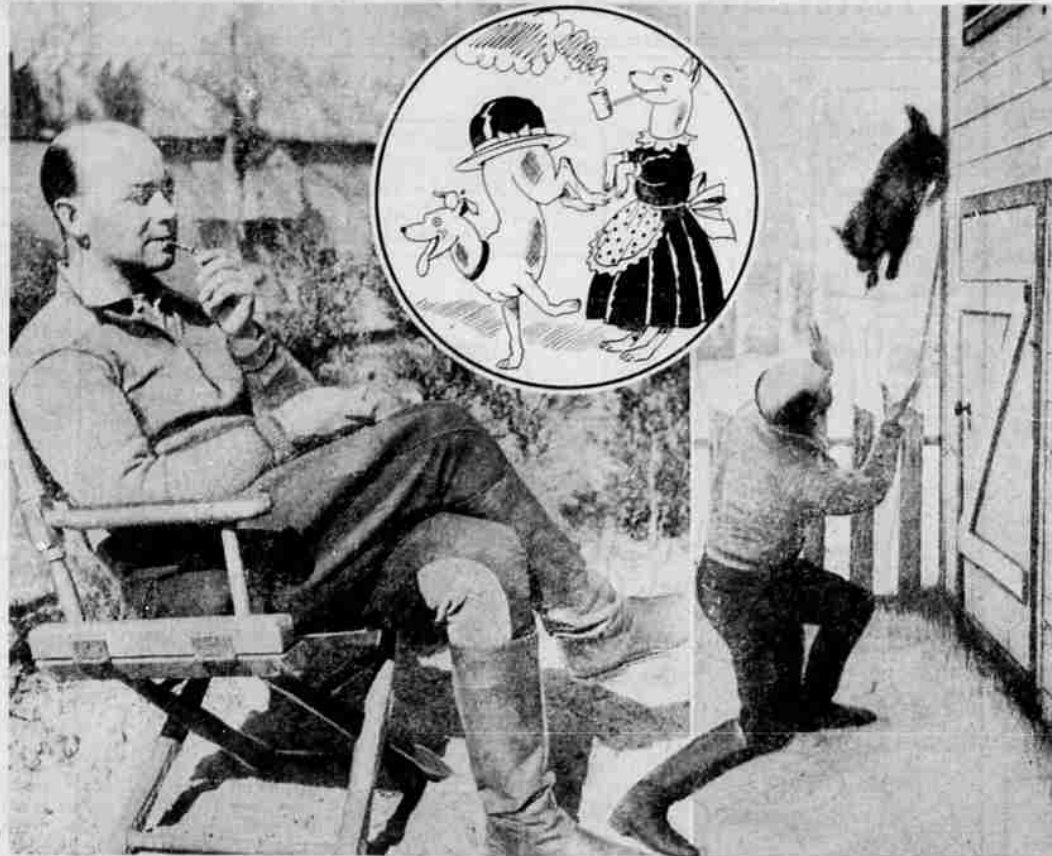
Here his venture has proved to be a good one for Spitz and a boon to the movie industry, which now largely depends upon the German trainer for its trick dogs.

His grammar course forms the basis or the A B C's of all stunt training. If a dog is smart enough to learn all there is to offer in this basic or ground course, it is an easy matter, the trainer says, to pass him into high school, the "mental state," where specific tricks are mastered.

But to be thoroughly trained, Spitz insists all dogs should be given the grammar course.

"After that," he said, "the dog is ready to serve as a 'blind' dog, a stage actor, a parlor entertainer or whatever you wish to make of him."

The grammar course begins with what the



Many of those tricky, smart dogs you see in the movies are trained by Carl Spitz, who operates an elaborate canine college near Hollywood. Spitz is shown, left, with the "silent" training whistle, a device pitched too high for the human ear to hear. Right, he demonstrates a difficult stunt, teaching Rags, a Cairn terrier, to jump.

trainer believes to be the most important thing in teaching dogs—a training leash.

"Never," he declared, "try to teach a dog anything unless you have a leash on him."

THIS leash is fastened to the dog's collar and the other end of it is thrown over the body of the trainer. This permits the trainer to have both hands free.

The first lesson is: "Sit quiet in one place." Next, he is taught to hold an object in his mouth. This is not so easy. With the thumb and two fingers of the trainer's left hand on the dog's nose the animal's mouth is opened. Then with the right hand the trainer inserts a light roll of paper or a light object into the dog's mouth.

The command is: "Hold it. Hold it, nice." If the dog takes the object into his mouth without much

objection he is petted and spoken to very kindly, because this is an indication the canine will learn very quickly, Spitz says.

The next command is "Out." The dog must learn to release or drop the object he has in his mouth. At this point the dog has learned to "Hold it nice," and "Out."

NEXT, the trainer, with the leash still around his own body, walks with the dog. He walks a few feet, then orders the animal to "Sit". Then if the dog accepts again the object in his mouth while he is sitting "quiet in one place," and will also release the object when the command "Out" is given, he is, indeed, advancing rapidly and the trainer is heartened.

The third lesson teaches the dog to go after the

Patience And Kindness Necessary To Overcome Natural Fear, He Advises

object himself, instead of the trainer placing it in his mouth.

"Pick it up. Hold it nice. Out," are the commands. If the dog-pupil has thus far followed instructions he is taken off the leash. Then he is taught how to retrieve the object, how to crouch, how to jump.

"After that," explains Spitz, "he is just about ready for high school. And high school consists of teaching any specific trick that may be demanded of him."

"Personally," he went on, "I would not attempt to teach a dog anything unless he had gone through the grammar course first. It's like placing the cart before the horse."

SPITZ does, however, lay down certain admonitions to amateur dog trainers.

First, he says, know the disposition of your dog. Is he naturally kind? Is he patient? Is he nervous? Does he sleep at night? Does he like children? Does he like people?

"Pet your dog all the time," said Spitz. "Permit other people to pet him. And after he has 'shaken hands' or 'stood on his head' in the parlor give him something nice to eat. Dogs are like people, they like to be appreciated."

In all the training routine, fear is the thing that must be combated, Spitz says.

"We encounter fear so much when teaching an animal to jump. The secret," he added, "is never to let a dog fall when you are teaching him to jump in your arms. If you do, he will become so frightened it will take him a long time to get over his scare and it will slow up training."

Spitz' star pupils are Buck, a giant St. Bernard, and Prince, a Great Dane.

These two dogs can just about do anything required of them, their owner says.

Like human actors, both work on contract for the movies. Their salaries are said to be between \$150 and \$250 per week. Spitz declines to place a monetary value on either dog. He revealed, however, that Lloyd's of London had agreed to place a \$50,000 insurance policy on Buck.

"But," he concluded, "there isn't enough money in the world to buy them from me."

(Watch for further articles telling how Carl Spitz trains the movie dogs. He will give valuable hints to readers of this magazine in future issues—explaining various tricks as used in films.—Editor.)

DARE-DEVIL DICK GRACE

WHO CHANGES PLANES IN MID-AIR WITHOUT THE USE OF A LADDER.....

THE EXPLOITS OF THIS QUIET, UNASSUMING KNIGHT OF THE AIR MAKE A MODERN SAGA OF MARVELOUS COURAGE AND MARVELOUS PHYSICAL CONDITION. NERVES—ENERGY—DIGESTION—ALL MUST BE IN TOP FORM ALL THE TIME, BECAUSE DICK'S JOB IS STUNTING PLANES FOR THE MOVIES. BELOW HE GIVES HIS OPINION ON SMOKING CAMELS.

ARE YOU CRAZY, DICK? NOBODY HAS EVER MADE A PLANE CHANGE IN MID-AIR WITHOUT THE AID OF A ROPE LADDER.

IT CAN'T BE DONE!

WE'RE WITH YOU—ARE YOU GOING TO JUMP?

NO, I'M GOING TO HANG HEADFIRST FROM THE UNDER-CARRIAGE AND DROP OFF.

HERE HE COMES—GEE, I HOPE AN AIR-POCKET DOESN'T BOUNCE US TOGETHER....

THEN IT HAPPENED! ROUGH AIR SHOT THE LOWER PLANE UP.... DICK SWUNG UP ON TO THE WING JUST AS THE OTHER PLANE SMASHED THROUGH THE UNDER-CARRIAGE.....

THEY "STALLED" THE SHIP IN—AND LANDED SAFELY.....

YEARS LATER IN HOLLYWOOD THE CHANCE CAME.... SAYS DICK: "I HAVE NEVER ADMITTED FAILURE—I KNEW THAT SOMETIME I WOULD PUT IT OVER...."

THIS SCENE CALLS FOR CHANGING PLANES IN MID-AIR.

GOOD, I'LL DO IT WITHOUT A LADDER!

BOY, IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE. WELL, HERE GOES....

GIVE 'ER THE GUN, JACK. HE'S FALLING SHORT!

DICK FLUNG HIS RIGHT ARM OUT DESPERATELY, CAUGHT A TRUSS BY TWO FINGERS, AND WAS SAFE BY A SPLIT SECOND!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, DICK. IT SHOWS YOU KEEP IN CONDITION—HAVE A CAMEL!

THAT'S MY BRAND! WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT CONDITION BRINGS UP AN INTERESTING POINT. NO ONE NEEDS TO TELL ME THE VALUE OF HEALTHY NERVES AND—

GOOD DIGESTION... I WATCH MY DIGESTION LIKE A HAWK. I FIND THAT CAMELS SMOKED DURING AND AFTER A MEAL ARE A DEFINITE AID TO DIGESTION. I ENJOY THEIR GOOD TASTE TOO....

YOURS TRULY, GLEN GRAY

CAMELS EASE STRAIN ON DIGESTION

SMOKING CAMELS WITH MEALS AND BETWEEN MEALS PROMOTES NATURAL PROCESSES OF DIGESTION. THEY'RE MILDER... APPROVED BY ATHLETES... CAMELS SET YOU RIGHT! THEY ARE MADE FROM FINER, MORE EXPENSIVE TOBACCOS... TURKISH AND DOMESTIC... THAN ANY OTHER POPULAR BRAND.

(SIGNED) R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO COMPANY
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For Digestion's Sake—Smoke Camels