

The living tradition

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The Barry Foundation - a resume



Who are we?

Following its creation in January 2005, the Barry Foundation took over the breeding kennel from the Great Saint Bernard Pass Hospice (Holy Order of the Great Saint Bernard Monastery) together with the kennel's famous Saint Bernard dogs. Our foundation has been the owner of the 300-year-old breeding kennel since April 2005, making us the oldest and most important Saint Bernard kennel in the world.

The Barry Foundation currently owns 27 bitches and five dogs (as of April 2021). In keeping with the tradition of Saint Bernard breeding at the Great Saint Bernard Hospice, we mainly breed short-haired dogs. Only ten of the Saint Bernards in our possession are long-haired.

An average of 20 pedigree puppies are born in our breeding kennel each year. A team consisting of a breeding manager, nine animal keepers and three trainees takes care of their well-being, their optimal development and their professional training.

The Barry Foundation is a member of the Swiss Saint Bernard Club and is a recognised non-for-profit institution.

Our mission

- Ensure the survival of the famous, legendary Saint Bernard dog breed by providing a breeding kennel founded on ethical and scientific knowledge.
- Preserve the typical hospice dog.
- Keep our dogs in their place of origin on the Great Saint Bernard Pass.
- Gain recognition as a reference on breeding issues in Switzerland and worldwide.
- Make the public aware of the fact that the Saint Bernards from the hospice are both a Swiss cultural asset and a symbol of the friendship between man and dog.
- To be recognised in Switzerland as a centre of excellence for animal-assisted interventions with dogs (therapy, education, coaching and activities) and to be a leader in terms of the quality of the interventions.

Our main tasks

- Maintain the tradition of breeding healthy dogs from the Saint Bernard breed.
- Promote the dogs' well-being.
- Maintain and increase public affinity for the Saint Bernard breed .
- Draw the public's attention (adults and children) to the fact that a Saint Bernard is a unique, non-judgemental companion that is always there for you.
- Build up and maintain a trusting relationship between man and dog.

Breeding quality guidelines

Our aim is to breed Saint Bernards in the spirit of the original breed. We place special emphasis on robust health, longevity, sociability and the placid, harmonious personality of this type of dog.

Breeding conditions

- Availability of sufficient surface area
- Splitting the dogs up and duration of the care given at the kennel
- Consideration taken of the development period of the puppies
- Genetic quality of the dogs: eliminating genetic predispositions
- Specific measures to further increase health and longevity
- Specific measures to further improve constitution and behaviour
- Transparency regarding breeding style
- Providing puppy purchasers with an after-sales service
- Fielding post-breeding enquiries (owner satisfaction, dogs' health and behaviour).

Training and looking after our dogs

- Experienced staff always on hand : greater socialisation and supervision of our dogs, more time spent with the dogs.

Many activities for our Saint Bernards

- Walks : the dogs are exercised in the countryside every day
- Therapy dog: animal-assisted interventions in the social sphere (activities, education, therapy and coaching)
- Walks: around the Great Saint Bernard Pass in summer, in Martigny in spring and around Lake Champex in winter.

Organisation chart of the Barry Foundation (Fondation Barry du Grand-St-Bernard)



Foundation Board



President

Jean-Maurice Tornay, former prefect of Entremont

Vice-President

Claude Moret, director of the Valais Cantonal Bank (Martigny region), Martigny

Board members

- Dr Roland P. Bühlmann
Businessman, Basel
- Eric Cachart
Hotelier, Chalet d'Adrien, Verbier
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- David Martinetti
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- Jean-Henry Papilloud
Former director of Médiathèque Valais, Martigny
- Gilbert Tornare
Representative of the municipality of Bourg-St-Pierre
- Roger Mège
Secretary of the council (not a member), former municipal councillor of Martigny, Martigny

Barryland

Barryland in Martigny is a place of encounter where people are brought together with the Saint Bernards from the Great Saint Bernard Pass. This is where visitors are immersed in the history of the Swiss national dog, follow its tracks to its origins on the Great Saint Bernard Pass and have an opportunity to admire the Saint Bernards at close quarters, playing, sleeping, training and much more. The experience is suitable for all ages and visits can be undertaken at any time of the year and in any weather.



Saint Bernards at close quarters!

The particular attraction is the famous hospice dogs, which can be admired daily in Barryland. The ground floor of the building houses the individual kennels and grooming facility. The kennels allow access to outdoor enclosures where the Saint Bernards can move freely and romp around under the eyes of the visitors.

Museum

The museum is dedicated to Switzerland's national dog, the Saint Bernard. It presents the Saint Bernards in art, in painted pictures and engravings, in advertising that's over 100 years old, and in cinematic entertainment, comic-strips and advertising. The museum also explores the role of the Saint Bernard through the ages – from the former avalanche dog to the therapy dog for people with particular needs and those facing challenging life situations. A photo box invites visitors to take a souvenir photo with freely selectable motifs (from May 2021).

The exhibits on permanent display are complemented by temporary exhibitions. Special exhibition in 2021: The Great Saint Bernard as an illustrated story. This collection of historical engravings featuring the region was put together by Frédéric Künzi and Léonard Gianadda for visitors to discover places laden with significance on the alpine crossing between Lake Geneva and Aosta, including the hospice with its college of canons and dogs, and the Napoleonic adventure.

The “Barry Family” zone on the second floor offers fun and games for our little Saint Bernard fans. Barryland also puts on regular activities for children throughout the year (by prior arrangement).

Café de Barry restaurant

The restaurant offers a daily changing menu, seasonal specialities and regional products. The tranquil terrace opposite the amphitheatre is particularly enticing in summer. The restaurant is open from 9 am to 6 pm (hot meals served from 11 am through to 5 pm).

Barry Shop

The museum shop stocks a wide range of souvenirs, exclusive quality products and selected gift ideas.

With around 65,000 visitors a year, Barryland is the second most popular attraction in Martigny. The “Musée et Chiens du Saint Bernard”, the original institution, was founded in 2006 by the Bernard and Caroline de Watteville Foundation. Through an agreement with the Barry Foundation, Saint Bernard dogs – and occasionally puppies – formed a permanent part of the exhibition. As a consequence of this long-standing collaboration, the Bernard and Caroline de Watteville Foundation and the Barry Foundation decided in 2014 to join forces through a merger and to accord more weight to the presence of the Saint Bernards. Since then, the museum has been under the management of the Barry Foundation, which renamed it “Barryland”. Lasting impressions are guaranteed through Barryland’s blend of

information, entertainment and gastronomy, complemented by the engaging encounters with our Saint Bernards.

Barryland is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm (except for 24 and 25 December, when it is closed).

Barryland

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The Saint Bernard

Origin

In the 11th century, monks founded a hospice as a refuge for travellers and pilgrims on the 2469 metre-high Great Saint Bernard Pass. Large mountain dogs have been kept at the hospice since the mid 17th century to guard and protect those staying there.

The first documentary evidence of the presence of mountain dogs dates back to 1695, and the first written document is a hospice memo from the year 1707. The animals were rapidly adopted as companion dogs and above all as rescue dogs for travellers who lost their way in the snow and fog. The dogs from the Great Saint Bernard Pass saved the lives of a great many people, averting numerous deaths in the snow. The reputation of the Saint Bernards (also known as “Barry dogs” from the early 19th century) grew throughout Europe in the 19th century thanks to chronicles published in many languages and to reports passed on by word of mouth by the soldiers who had crossed the pass with Napoleon Bonaparte in 1800. The legendary Barry became the archetype of the rescue dog.

The direct ancestors of the Saint Bernards were the large farm dogs found widely across the region. In the space of a few generations, these dogs were bred according to specifically defined ideal criteria to make them into the breed that exists today. In 1867, Heinrich Schumacher from Holligen near Bern became the first person to present documents showing the ancestry of his dogs.

The Swiss dog register was started in February 1884. The first ever entry was a Saint Bernard called Léon, and the 28 subsequent entries were all Saint Bernards, too. The Swiss Saint Bernard Club was founded in Basel on 15th March 1884. On the occasion of an international cynology congress on 2nd June 1887, the Saint Bernard was officially recognised as a Swiss dog breed and mandatory standards set for the breed. The Saint Bernard has been regarded as Switzerland’s national dog ever since.

The story of the legendary Barry I

Barry lived at the hospice from 1800 until 1812 and was doubtless the most famous of all the dogs that ever provided rescue services on the pass. He saved the lives of more than 40 people. The many legends surrounding his name greatly contributed to the Saint Bernard’s favourable reputation. As a result, there is always a dog called Barry at the hospice.

In 1812, when Barry started ageing, one of the Fathers took him to Bern on foot. He was well taken care of in his new home but finally died of old age two years later. In 1815, he was put on show in the natural history museum. The restored preserved body of Barry I has been displayed there since 1923.



The Saint Bernard breed today

Name

Saint Bernard

Country of origin

Switzerland

Classification

FCI group 2, standard no. 61

Occurrence

Approximately 600 animals in Switzerland, not a very common breed, average number of puppy entries per year: 100.

Appearance

- Instep height: dogs at least 70 cm, bitches at least 65 cm
- Weight: dogs 75 to 85 kg, bitches 50 to 70 kg
- Coat: long- and short-haired.
Colour: primary colour white, with reddish brown plate-like splashes of varying size (splash coat) or even a constant reddish brown upper coat on the back and flanks (mantle coat).
Short-haired variety: upper coat thick, smooth, close-fitting and dense with lots of ground fur.
Long-haired variety: mid-long, straight upper coat with lots of ground fur. Regular grooming is essential.

Life expectancy

An average of 8 years.

Personality

Generally friendly, temperament ranging from quiet to lively, alert, slightly independent.

Exercise

An hour-long walk each day as well as freedom to move about in and around the house.

Training

The Saint Bernard is primarily a family pet but can be suited to sport and dog-cart pulling depending on its build.

Type of owner

A Saint Bernard needs contact with a family. Its owner must have plenty of time to devote to the dog.

Observations

The Saint Bernard has been the Swiss national dog since 1884.



Saint Bernards - activities

The Saint Bernards from the Barry Foundation not only enjoy their twice daily walks, but also benefit from a varied, well-balanced activity schedule. The hospice dogs are to be encountered in the following areas:

Social dog*

With its dogs, the Barry Foundation offers a wide range of animal-assisted interventions in the social sphere. Our dogs love being around people and, together with their handlers, form what is termed a “therapy dog team”, which receives training. Our animal-assisted activities include, for instance, visiting residential and care homes to bring smiles and variety into the lives of the residents. But we are also deployed for support programmes involving, for instance, people living with dementia. We also provide outreach in Swiss prisons, where we help inmates to resocialise and accept responsibility. Our interventions in the realm of animal-assisted education support the social development and learning of children and young people. In partnership with teachers from various schools and other institutions, we design camps lasting several days as well as longer-term programmes, and we provide support with special needs measures. Our Saint Bernards are also deployed in hospitals and for rehabilitation. Interventions of this nature are classified as animal-assisted therapy. In the realm of counselling, our dogs act as co-coaches by helping people with special needs or facing challenging life situations unleash their potential. Our goal is to be available for interventions 365 days a year.

**In Switzerland, the term “social dog” is now used for dogs deployed in social rather than strictly therapeutic contexts. This distinction is not made in English.*

Cart dog

The Saint Bernard is an archetypal drafting dog. Its size and power mean that it is well suited to pulling loads. The dogs of the Barry Foundation pull carts for training purposes in the summer and sledges when deployed for winter walks around Lake Champex.

Target search

This kind of work is very strenuous for the dog, as it calls for heightened concentration. A target object search involves the St. Bernard sniffing out a hidden item. It signals that it has found it by lying down next to the item.

Tricks

Learning little tricks is real mental work for the dog that calls for concentrated attention. Both dog and handler find the training great fun.

Intelligent dog toys

To promote mental activity in our dogs, we often work with specially designed dog toys. The principle is always the same: a treat is hidden inside the toy. The Saint Bernard can only get to the treat by manipulating (pushing, squeezing, turning, pulling) certain elements. The toys range from simple to complex.

Mobility

Regular training involving obstacles (mobility) – a type of agility exercise for large dogs – helps keep our Saint Bernards fit and is something they really enjoy.

Foodbag exercise

Searching, carrying and retrieving – these are skills that are practised with the treat bag. The tasty reward following a successful retrieval comes straight out of the bag.

Walks

Our Saint Bernards are athletic dogs that love the great outdoors. In spring, summer and winter, we offer walks in the company of our dogs in Martigny, on the Great Saint Bernard Pass and around Lake Champex.

List of dogs owned by the Great Saint Bernard breeding facility

Nom	Sex	Date of birth	Coat
Alba Alpine Dream	Female	07.06.2015	Longhaired
Ann vom Baronenschloss	Female	03.10.2020	Longhaired
Athena du Grand St. Bernard	Female	03.05.2019	Shorthaired
Baltic du Grand St. Bernard	Female	09.11.2019	Shorthaired
Bounty du Grand St. Bernard	Female	02.03.2011	Shorthaired
Cérés du Grand St. Bernard	Female	24.12.2019	Shorthaired
Dasty du Grand St. Bernard	Male	01.04.2020	Longhaired
Djanga au Moulin de Tallans	Female	25.05.2015	Longhaired
Djune du Grand St. Bernard	Female	01.04.2020	Shorthaired
Easy du Grand St. Bernard	Female	18.12.2011	Shorthaired
Edène du Grand St. Bernard	Female	04.04.2020	Longhaired
Finesse du Grand St. Bernard	Female	01.12.2020	Shorthaired
Halix au Moulin de Tallans	Female	12.03.2012	Longhaired
Helvi au Moulin de Tallans	Female	05.06.2018	Shorthaired
Hoxane du Grand St. Bernard	Female	08.01.2013	Shorthaired
Joy du Grand St. Bernard	Female	09.06.2013	Shorthaired
Kashmir du Grand St. Bernard	Male	07.03.2014	Longhaired
Magnum du Grand St. Bernard	Male	11.12.2014	Shorthaired
Opaline du Grand St. Bernard	Female	15.12.2015	Shorthaired
Patsch du Grand St. Bernard	Female	25.12.2015	Shorthaired
Rangoon du Grand St. Bernard	Female	18.08.2016	Shorthaired
Replay van de Burggravehoeve	Female	22.04.2018	Longhaired
Roxy van de Burggravehoeve	Female	22.04.2018	Shorthaired
Syrah du Grand St. Bernard	Female	22.03.2017	Shorthaired
Taline du Grand St. Bernard	Female	25.03.2017	Longhaired
This is Hope van de Burggravehoeve	Female	30.05.2020	Shorthaired
Tosca du Grand St. Bernard	Female	25.03.2017	Shorthaired
Vénus du Grand St. Bernard	Female	07.09.2017	Shorthaired
V'Barry du Grand St. Bernard	Male	07.09.2017	Shorthaired
Waiana du Grand St. Bernard	Female	21.12.2017	Longhaired
Zeus du Grand St. Bernard	Male	11.04.2019	Shorthaired
Ziva du Grand St. Bernard	Female	11.04.2019	Shorthaired

Some images from the Barry Foundation collection

Barry Foundation



Barryland



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More picture material may be found in the media section of our website:
www.fondation-barry.ch/EN/mediacorner

Logo





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