

*The living tradition*

# Media Folder





## 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 owns about 30 Saint Bernard dogs. In keeping with the tradition of Saint Bernard breeding at the Great Saint Bernard Hospice, we mainly breed short-haired dogs. Only a few 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).

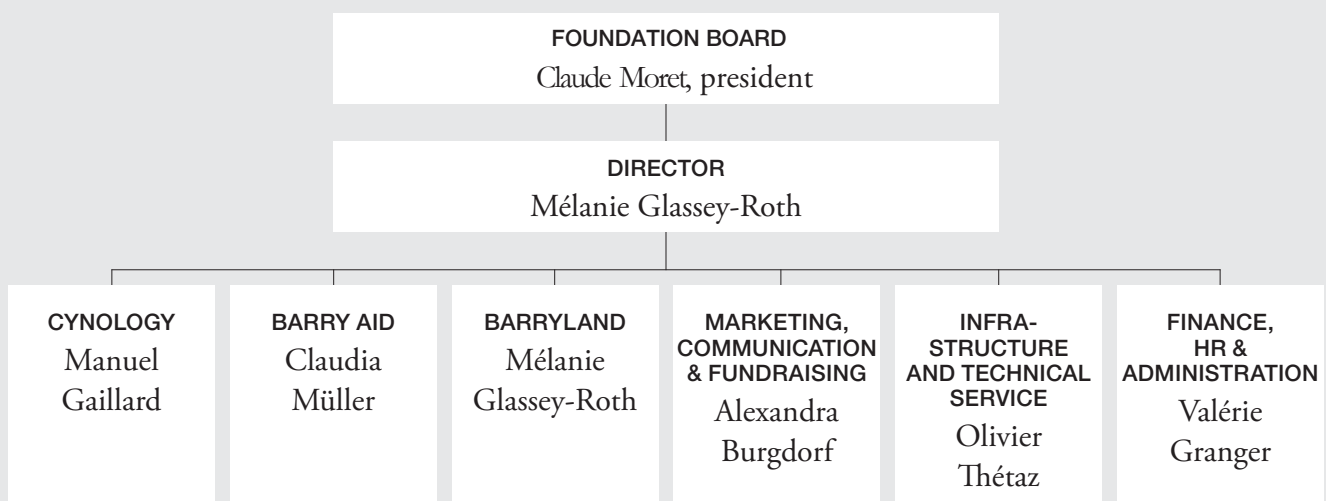
### Training and looking after our dogs

- 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

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

## Vice-President

Marc-Henri Favre, Businessman, former mayor of Martigny, Martigny

## Board members

- Dr Roland P. Bühlmann  
Businessman, Basel
- Eric Cachart  
Hotelier, Chalet d'Adrien, Verbier
- Esther Gassler-Leuenberger  
Former cantonal councillor of Canton Solothurn, Schönenwerd
- Corrado Jordan  
Regional councillor of the Aosta valley, St-Rhémy-en-Bosses (Italy)
- David Martinetti  
Deputy mayor of Martigny municipality, Martigny
- Jean-Henry Papilloud  
Former director of Médiathèque Valais, Martigny
- Gilbert Tornare  
Representative of the municipality of Bourg-St-Pierre, Bourg-St-Pierre
- Roger Mège  
Secretary of the council (not a member), former municipal councillor of Martigny, Martigny

# The Saint Bernard

## Origin

In the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century) grew throughout Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> March 1884. On the occasion of an international cynology congress on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 I 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 male dog called Barry in the kennel.

In 1812, when Barry I 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 70 to 80 kg, bitches 50 to 65 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

Several walks 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 is well suited as a family dog. The prerequisite is that its owner has plenty of time to look after it properly and enough outdoor space for the dog to move around freely.

## 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. These toys can have different levels of difficulty.

## 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        |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Ann (Abby) 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 |
| Dasty du Grand St. Bernard    | Male   | 01.04.2020    | Longhaired  |
| Djune du Grand St. Bernard    | Female | 01.04.2020    | Shorthaired |
| Edène du Grand St. Bernard    | Female | 04.04.2020    | Longhaired  |
| Finesse du Grand St. Bernard  | Female | 01.12.2020    | Shorthaired |
| Fiorenzo Pastor de Orellana   | Male   | 15.10.2023    | Longhaired  |
| Haïka du Grand St. Bernard    | Female | 22.02.2021    | Longhaired  |
| Japlou du Grand St. Bernard   | Male   | 21.12.2021    | Shorthaired |
| Jazz du Grand St. Bernard     | Female | 21.12.2021    | Shorthaired |
| Lio du Grand St. Bernard      | Female | 08.03.2022    | Shorthaired |
| Muffin du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 31.07.2022    | Longhaired  |
| Noline du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 20.11.2022    | Shorthaired |
| Ourale du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 25.11.2022    | Shorthaired |
| Patsch du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 25.12.2015    | Shorthaired |
| Plume du Grand St. Bernard    | Female | 02.01.2023    | Longhaired  |
| Qualya du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 19.04.2023    | Longhaired  |
| Rangoon du Grand St. Bernard  | Female | 18.08.2016    | Shorthaired |
| Replay van de Burggravehoeve  | Female | 22.04.2018    | Longhaired  |
| Rhooona du Grand St. Bernard  | Female | 28.08.2023    | Shorthaired |
| Roanne du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 28.08.2023    | Shorthaired |
| Roxy van de Burggravehoeve    | Female | 22.04.2018    | Shorthaired |
| Scully du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 19.01.2024    | Shorthaired |
| Spirou du Grand St. Bernard   | Male   | 19.01.2024    | Shorthaired |
| Sydney du Grand St. Bernard   | Female | 19.01.2024    | Shorthaired |
| Syrah du Grand St. Bernard    | Female | 22.03.2017    | 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 |
| 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



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More picture material may be found in the media section of our website:

[www.fondation-barry.ch/EN/mediacorner](http://www.fondation-barry.ch/EN/mediacorner)

## Logo



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