



[www.learnwithdogs.co.uk](http://www.learnwithdogs.co.uk)

Fact Sheet St Bernard

Type of Dog: working

History:

- A hospice was set up by monks in the St. Bernard Pass, Switzerland, in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a shelter for travellers and pilgrims. Large mountain dogs, ancestors of the St Bernard were kept there from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- St Bernard dogs were used as companion dogs for the monks and as rescue dogs for travellers lost in snow and fog.
- During the 200 years that the dogs worked on the Saint Bernard Pass, approximately 2,000 people were rescued.

Did you know...?

- There are two varieties of St. Bernard – short-haired and long-haired.
- St. Bernard dogs were sometimes known as "Barry-dogs". Barry, the most famous Saint Bernard, lived in the Monastery from 1800 to 1812. With his help, over 40 people were saved.
- The St. Bernard has been the Swiss national dog since 1887.

St Bernards as pets:

- Need a lot of space.
- Need a lot of exercise.
- Gentle and calm.