



## Working

### St. Bernard

The national dog of Switzerland, the St Bernard is named after the monk who, in the 10th Century, founded a hospice to care for travellers on the perilous routes through the Swiss Alps. The first dogs were Alpine Mastiffs, initially used to guard property, but with the discovery of their rescue abilities their role was changed. These dogs were the ancestors of the modern St Bernard.

By the 18th Century the role of the dogs had changed and they were being used for rescue work, locating lost and stranded travellers. The monks were using new blood to develop bigger dogs and it is thought that the Newfoundland and the Bloodhound might have contributed to the new type. Certainly the dogs became larger and longer coated. The outcrossing was disputed by some of the monks as they felt that a longer coat would ice up, so some of stock was purposely kept which remained close to the original short-coated type. Hence the breed still has long coated and smooth coated specimens today. The breed retained the name of Alpine Mastiffs well into the 19th Century, and it was not until 1888 that the modern title of St Bernard was adopted.

The traditional view of the rescuing St Bernard with a cask of brandy attached to his collar is a romantic and fanciful one, created by the famous Victorian artist Edwin Landseer, who painted the first two St Bernard's to arrive in London.

Breed Group	Working
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Large
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	More than once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Under 10 Years

## Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

## What Screening is relevant for the St. Bernard?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- Bitches not to produce a litter under two years of age

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

## St. Bernard Clubs

Name	Telephone
Eastern St Bernard Club	01636 613 523
English St Bernard Club	01773 872535
St Bernard Club Of Scotland	01563 520 897
United St Bernard Club	01282 452561

## St. Bernard Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Saving Saints Rescue UK	07808 055408
Saving Saints Rescue UK	07759 516241
Saving Saints Rescue UK	07949 055540
St Bernard Trust	0121 445 2965
St Bernard Trust	07905 141831

Name	Telephone
St Bernard Trust	07825 020565
St Bernard Trust	07966 927219
St Bernard Trust	01797 361313
St Bernard Trust	07734 034407
St Bernard Trust	01642 868 097



THE KENNEL CLUB

ACCREDITED BREEDER SCHEME

## Assured Breeders

Name	Member since	Phone	Accolades
<b>Mrs J M McMurray</b> Kilmarnock, Ayrshire	22/01/2013	01563 520 897	  
<b>Mr C &amp; Mrs M Edwards</b> Holsworthy, Devon	06/09/2016	01409 240282	
<b>Miss C L Moore</b> Thetford, Norfolk	30/06/2008	07974 662571	 
<b>Mrs D Deuchar Fawcett</b> Scarborough, North Yorkshire	30/04/2006	01723 584696	  
<b>Mr J &amp; Mrs J E Hodges</b> Oswestry, Shropshire	30/11/2006	01691 830288	



**Accolade of Excellence**

Denotes a significant contribution to a breed.



**Studbook Achievement**

Bred at least 3 dogs listed in the Studbook.



**Breed Club Membership**

Current member of one or more breed clubs



**Breeder Experience**

5 or more litters registered with the Kennel Club