

*The Saint Bernard*

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# Introduction

Originally the Saint Bernard dog breed was used to guard the grounds of Switzerland's Hospice Saint Bernard as well as to help find and save lost and injured travelers. Today the St. Bernard enjoys the comforts of family life in many homes across the world. He is versatile and excels in the show ring and in obedience trials, drafting (pulling a cart or wagon), and weight pulling competitions.



# History



Saint Bernards are powerful, giant-sized dogs with deep roots in myth and legend. Although traditionally thought to have originated at a monastery-hospice in the Swiss Alps in the 11th century, the dog's first verifiable appearance at the monastery, or anywhere else, probably occurred about 600 years later.

Experts believe that these first monastery dogs were intended for use as watchdogs. Not long thereafter, however, their life-saving abilities became apparent. Over the next three centuries, Saints were credited with saving well over 2,000 human lives.

Today's Saints are known not only for their historic exploits, but also for their love and devotion to their human companions, especially children. Two popular children's movies of the 1990s, "Beethoven" and "Beethoven 2," capitalized on this trait to tell stories of a lovable Saint Bernard's adventures with his suburban American family.

# Personality

Saint Bernards are loving, placid dogs. Their instinctive friendliness is likely to offset a stranger's initial fear of approaching such a large dog. However, Saint Bernards are equally quick to protect family members who they believe are in danger.

Because they are so friendly, gentle and tolerant, Saints can be especially good for families with well-behaved children. Known to be exceptionally understanding and patient, Saints are careful not to injure a child.

These dogs are eager to please, which can make training easier than with other breeds.



# Conclusion

The Saint Bernard has always been a interest of mine. I always wondered how they knew how to save lives in dog sled races in movies, for example “Snow Buddies”. I wish to have a dog capable of such a courageous task. My dogs lay around all day and refuse to play with me. If I had a Saint Bernard, I would move to Alaska and want to see a real saving in action made by my own dog.

