



Press release

Martigny, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010

## Fun in the snow with the St Bernards

**The winter hikes with the hospice dogs at Champex-Lac promise to be an extraordinary experience for the whole family. Participants in the 90 minute walks around the mountain lake can enjoy close contact with the dogs. To the children's great delight, a sledge pulled by St Bernards accompanies the walk.**

Winter is the St Bernards' favourite season. They enjoy nothing more than romping around in the snow and the cold. Anybody who is interested can come and see for themselves in Champex from the end of December until the end of February. The Barry Foundation is organising 1 ½ hour walks with the dogs up on the Valais canton's splendid high mountain plateau. As a special attraction, walks are accompanied by a sledge pulled by St Bernards.

"Saint Bernards used to pull carts as long ago as in historic times. This activity is still very well suited to Saint Bernards today. We have simply adapted the pulling work a little bit for the winter, using sledges instead of carts", explains Manuel Gaillard, who is in charge of the dogs. "One or two dogs can be attached to the sledges, which we have had specially built for the purpose."

Participants in the winter walks can get right up close to the St Bernards and share a very special experience with them. Dog handler Raymond Baudat accompanies the walks in Champex. "It isn't just the St Bernards and the visitors who enjoy these walks in the snow. I have more and more fun each time myself, sharing my passion for the St Bernards with others."

"If walkers want to spend even more time with the Barrys, we then recommend a visit to Martigny's St Bernard museum", reveals Rudolf Thomann, Barry Foundation manager. "The "Musée et chiens", as it is called, shows the exciting historical background of the St Bernard breed, but also gives visitors another opportunity to meet some of our dogs."

### **Champex-Lac mountain lake walks**

What: 1 ½ hour walk with the hospice dogs, accompanied by a sledge pulled by a St Bernard  
When: Every Sunday from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2010 until the end of February 2011, as well as every Saturday in February 2011  
Meeting point: At 9.50 am or 1.50 pm each day at the Champex-Lac tourist office  
Participants: A maximum of 16 people (minimum 6)  
Prices: 45 Fr. for adults, 9 Fr. for children between the ages of 6 and 16, children < 6 years old free of charge  
Bookings: We advise booking with the Barry Foundation in advance (Tel. +41 (0)27 722 65 42, E-Mail [st-bernard@fondation-barry.ch](mailto:st-bernard@fondation-barry.ch)) [www.fondation-barry.ch](http://www.fondation-barry.ch)

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Photos available:



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Champex 4

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