

Brigitte Bardot
September 28, 1934 – December 28, 2025

Brigitte Bardot retired from the cinema in 1973 at the age of 39 at the height of her fame to promote nonhuman rights.

In 1986, she founded the Brigitte Bardot Foundation for the defense and protection of nonhuman beings by auctioning off jewelry and personal belongings to fund the foundation. The foundation works internationally to rescue, advocate to end cruelty and illegal trafficking, protect wildlife and farm nonhuman beings, and promote protection laws worldwide.

Bardot represented a passionate, spirited voice for nonhuman beings as evidenced in the following acts and letters.

In 1977, Bardot famously visited Canada upon the invitation of Sam Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, where she campaigned against sea hunting on the Canadian ice floe and changed global public opinion.

In 1994, Bardot urged French television viewers to boycott horse meat. She sent a letter to the minister of agriculture, Jean Puech, demanding for him to ban the sale of horse meat.

In 1999, Bardot wrote a letter to People's Republic of China President Jiang Zemin in which she accused the PRC of "torturing bears and killing the world's last tigers and rhinos to make aphrodisiacs."

During 2001-2002, she donated more than \$140,000 for a mass neutering and adoption program for Bucharest's estimated 300,000 stray dogs.

In 2010, Bardot addressed a letter to Queen Margrethe II of Denmark appealing for the sovereign to halt the killing of dolphins in the Faroe Islands. In the letter, Bardot described the activity as a "a mass slaughter...an outmoded tradition that has no acceptable justification in today's world."

In 2011, French culture minister Frédéric Mitterrand officially included bullfighting in the country's cultural heritage. Bardot wrote him a highly critical letter of protest.

In 2011, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society renamed its fast interceptor vessel, MV *Gojira*, as MV *Brigitte Bardot* in appreciation of her support.

From 2013, the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, in collaboration with Kagyupa International Monlam Trust of India, operated an annual veterinary care camp.

In 2015, Bardot condemned Australian politician Greg Hunt's plan to eradicate two million cats to save endangered species such as the Warru and night parrot.

Bardot passed in her home at 91 years young. With respect to her legacy, in the late 1960s, Bardot's silhouette was used as a model for designing and modeling the statue's bust of Marianne, a symbol of the French Republic. Marianne has been the national personification of the French Republic since the French Revolution as an emblem of liberty, equality, fraternity and reason; as well as a portrayal of the Goddess of Liberty...and the perfect representation for the status of legal personhood for nonhuman beings and nonhuman rights of life, liberty and bodily integrity.