



Patterdale MRT  
Registered Charity No 1063329

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Icelandic team support Cumbrian floods appeal**

The Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) of Iceland (BHSI) has made a £600 donation to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund as a thank you to members of the SARDA Lakes team for their help over the years.

Snorri Þórisson is the vice chairman of the Icelandic team: "The co-operation started back in 1992 when BHSI received great help from the Lakes group in starting to train our field search dogs," he says. "From that time we have often had instructors from SARDA Lakes visiting our courses and some of us from Iceland have also been able to take part in Cumbrian training. It is very important for us to have this link to SARDA Lakes to keep the quality standards in our work and we also hope that now SARDA Lakes can benefit something today from this cooperation."

Mike Blakey, a member of SARDA Lakes and of Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team, has had the contact with Snorri about the Icelandic donation: "The Cumbrian floods were featured in the news media over in Iceland and, like a lot of people, I suppose, the members of BHSI thought of the people they knew here and were keen to find out if we were all OK. The donation to the Recovery Fund is very welcome and we can only thank the team out in Iceland for their concern and their generosity."

Many of the Lake District's mountain rescue teams and SARDA dogs were involved in searches and rescues associated with the recent flooding in Keswick, Penrith, Ullswater and, of course, Cockermouth.

"As well as training for mountains, many of our volunteers also train for swift water rescue," explains Mike, "and we do joint training with RNLI and the coastguard for support on lake rescues on and around Ullswater. Our own base in Patterdale was nearly cut off by the floods and it was only right that we were able to help the local residents and businesses who so often support us with funding and donations."



Snorri Þórisson of BHSI with his search and rescue dog, Kolor

For further information please see [www.mountainrescue.org.uk](http://www.mountainrescue.org.uk) or contact Sally Seed at Stoneleigh Communications on 015396 24732.

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