

am myself and I do it only of alarm."

same reasons, perhaps, misses her name and image dodges the press and not to face an interviewer described and dissected. ne, the disembodied voice husky with a sense of ncy; it could belong to a very old woman. She will lions only about her work and this she does with all and directness of a child or a

of doom. are getting worse and says. "It is a painful, terrify. When I think of what I cry and cry. I cry so not understand why a civil can allow such cruelty." e no satisfaction in any ts or response because s so much more to do. ad some success with the at there are still poachers in France or Britain people ory, there is always Japan

the tears, there is much entimentality behind her "After I stopped making k two years to reflect and e then I have devoted my ls — but I had to learn a d I have studied hard." mentors is Jacques Cous- ls her affectionately "a

ger once predicted that in her to be Teresa of he may ht.

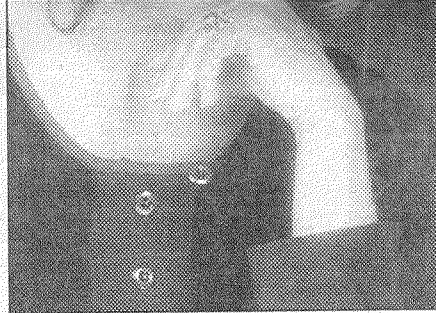
ecame so er her film g away at e, her Ste- e, with an f dogs and at people l her "Bri- Her lovers apped com- g and she ed by the he ageing, ve-hungry y with the hair and eans.

up because said she at 40 — she cared much g — and e had no ee herself film. "It is obscene to

Her growing commitment to the cause of animals — their rights, welfare and conservation — was at first dismissed as an extension of childish love of furry pets. Pictures of her in 1977 with baby seals in the Arctic were deemed cute, but when she persisted with less cuddlesome species, she began to be regarded as part crank, part melodramatic *pasionaria*, overcompensating for her failure to come to terms with the human race, especially the male of the species.

Her son Nicolas, born of her brief marriage to actor Jacques Charrier, is now approaching 30. Bardot's lack of maternal interest in him when he was small shocked some people. She has always maintained that had he been a girl she would have brought the child up herself, but "it was better for a boy to be close to his father". Mother and son later became good friends, but see each other rarely because he lives in Oslo with his beautiful blonde wife Annelina and their three-year-old daughter, Michelle. The rôle of *grandmère* does not, however, seem to appeal to Bardot any more than that of mother. "I love a Norwegian and my mother loves baby seals," Nicolas has been quoted as saying good-humouredly.

Her private life is guarded by her own discretion and the high fences around her properties — La Madrague and at Bazoches, not far from Paris, where she now spends most of the time. She lives alone, with the help of caretakers and a few close friends who come and go. But the solitude is dispersed by the menag-



New image: Bardot at 55, presenter of SOS Animaux, her conservation programme

erie of more than 100 animals she keeps at the two houses.

There are about 40 wild or wildish cats in St-Tropez (some descended from Colette's pets of more than 50 years ago), a cacophony of barking dogs (mostly of uncertain ancestry, to say the least), a mare, a donkey and some goats. "When I hear of an animal in trouble I try to take it in," she says. "I have a lot of animals." The well-tended animal cemetery at the back of her house remembers past pets. Sometimes her charity backfires as in the case of Charly, her neighbour's donkey which she agreed to keep this summer while his owner was on holiday.

It is rather a relief to hear of a creature that proved too much for Bardot: "I had no idea that he would turn out such an expensive and stubborn animal," she says. The trouble began when Charly, ignoring the charms of the

she claims to play the real, she was not doing much else. Vadim saw, that was her e was the first actress to play It's generally believed that Brigitte. But it is precisely gitte was not the product of imagination that not her p society nor her professional deepest nature, and that she shock, seduce, create a new explode in the world as a sex

The story of the *ingénue* who from the bourgeois shadows Paris to symbolise the sexual an age has been told and began with a teenage roma dark stranger (Vadim) and mixed catalogue of 48 films, riages, one child, suicide at a constant attendant rout of Men fantasised, women d look is still not dead.

Why little Mlle Bardot another is an unanswerable In America it was Monroe, happened to be Bardot, a Occupation. BB is usually terms of her prime and her n immediate past history of l and her family background more relevant. Born in 19 was only six when France f at the Liberation. The trau invaded and occupied prob more, consciously, to her band Roger Vadim than to E lived a protected and affluent daughter of an industrial

legacy was led a strict tured life, or she and her unforgettably for some m our, aged n respectively forbidden to parents "tu" "I felt as if I parents," B years later.

In spite of matured into where free exploding, ists were in and all, for seemed right world. At 1 she was on t Elle, and c dim's eye a him, fellow Marc Allég career, alb tainly, began "I won't gypsies in r

'In the game of love, she is both hunter and prey'



The husbands: (from left) Svengali Roger Vadim, father Jacques Charrier, millionaire Gunther Sachs