

## **Portrait: Honey Badgers**

"We are Honey Badgers, we don't give a shit", that is what I got for an answer when I asked that question to a group of people wearing a strange logo on their t-shirts at the start of the Ultra Trail Du Mont Blanc. What kind of funny creature was that?

Honey Badgers are characterized by their nature of toughness and stubbornness, just like any ultra runner. Who or what is a Honey Badger, you might ask yourself? Well, behind the sound of his cozy name, hides a creature that has even Cobras in his menu; and if you like to search in you tube, you will find impressive videos of this animal nature and habits.

Now, what I found out about this particular group of ultra runners called themselves Honey Badgers, is that they got their name over a year ago, in Leadville , Colorado, USA, while they were having breakfast getting ready for a training run in the mountains. They, as ultra runners, felt identified with this animal, because simply, they posses the same characteristics.

Ultra runners and Honey Badgers are similar in many aspects, both are: tough, brave, strong, fearless, intelligent, they can eat anything, and above all, they don't care or give shit in many circumstances they might face. Opposite to these animals, Ultra runners are cute, sexy, irresistible, charming and athletic with lots of endurance.

Ever since that breakfast in 2011, the group has grown, and become an informal and popular club, now over 20 ultra runners, and crew supporters that assist these runners in the ultra races, like they did at UTMB this year. Camaraderie is essential, they support and encourage each other, and the hospitality among them is a most, meaning, they share their meals and lodging when they travel. What could be better than spending your time with friends?...

The Honey Badgers founding story comes with its members being Americans from different states in the US; the hard core of this club, which I met in Chamonix, counts among others: Tim and Ray from Colorado, Curt from Ohio, Phil from Tennessee, Greg (Arizona) and Francisco from Texas.

In the meantime, some European marathon runners had joined as well. Since the UTMB, the first European ultra runner who has joined them is: me.

Therefore, we could modify the slogan to " Honey Badgers, not giving shit worldwide, since 2012" "