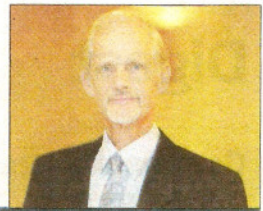


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PANDA POWER

THE COMMOTION OVER TWO NEW RESIDENTS OF A BELGIAN ZOO THROWS
MORE LIGHT ABOUT AN ANIMAL EVERYONE SEEMS TO LOVE

By ERIK NILSSON
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Giant pandas are so celebrated that it was no surprise that a photo of a panda munching bamboo in the business-class seat of an Air China flight went viral, even if it turned out to be a hoax.

That image's instant popularity, and the fact that it was even created, is yet more evidence of the cachet pandas enjoy. There is no doubt that one of China's best-known symbols is also one of the planet's most loved animals.

When a pair of pandas flew from China to Canada last March, FedEx decked out the chartered aircraft's exterior with images of the

More coverage

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Panda planet P16

flight the usual first-class fare was laid on: 100 kilograms of bamboo, 150 kg of shoots, 50 kg

of apples and 15 kg of water, with a vet and two attendants on hand to cater to the animals' every whim.

"In-flight catering and a comfortable cabin temperature for the pandas should make for an enjoyable journey halfway across the world," the company said in a blog.

>> ZOO GUESTS, PAGE 6



LI MIN /
CHINA DAILY

PANDA PLANET

EXTINCT	THREATENED	LOW RISK
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Subspecies

In 1972, when the US president Richard Nixon and his wife Pat Nixon visited China for the first time, premier Zhou Enlai received them. At a banquet, he offered the US First Lady a packet of Panda cigarettes. She politely refused, saying she did not smoke. With a smile, Zhou replied, "No, we are going to give two pandas to your country. Would you like them?" On the first day that Ling-ling and Hsing-hsing went on show at National Zoological Park, 20,000 people descended on the zoo to see them.

1941
Year that first pandas were sent abroad
Number: two
Names: Pan Dah and Pan Dee
Country: US
Place: Bronx Zoo, New York

1946
Year that first panda was sent to Britain
Name: Miss Unity
Place: London Zoo

1957
Year that first panda was sent abroad after PRC was established
Name: Ping-ping
Country: Soviet Union

1972
MILESTONE YEAR OF PANDA DIPLOMACY
Pandas sent to: National Zoological Park, Washington
Number: two
Names: Ling-ling, Hsing-hsing
Country: US

PANDA DIPLOMACY SINCE THE 1970S
Pandas started to become well known internationally in the 1970s, and many were sent overseas as Chinese government gifts.

1980
In the 1980s the number of pandas in China began to fall, and it stopped sending them overseas

1984
In 1984, at the invitation of Los Angeles, a touring panda exhibition was staged.

1992
In 1992, the Chinese government started the project to preserve the giant panda and its habitat.

GIANT PANDA
Scientific name: *Ailuropus melanoleuca*

Size: 1.5m, 75cm

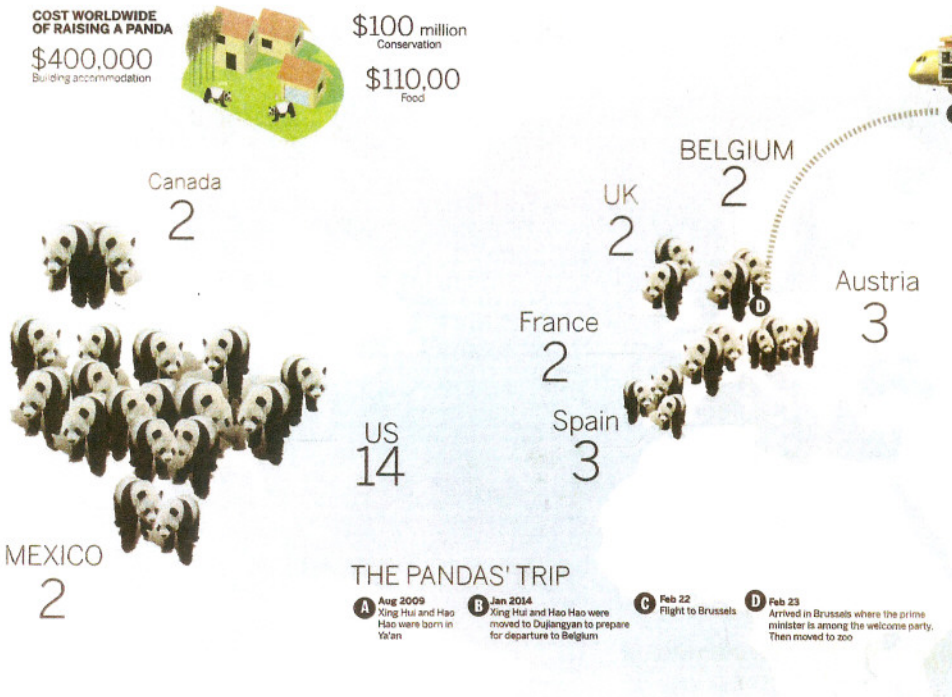
Males 10% larger than females
Weight: 99-145 kilos
Males 20% heavier than females

LIFESPAN
14-20 years in the wild, 20-30 years in captivity

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PANDAS OUTSIDE CHINA

There are 12 countries with 44 pandas living there

COST WORLDWIDE OF RAISING A PANDA
\$400,000 Building accommodation
\$100 million Conservation
\$110,000 Food



THE PANDAS' TRIP

A Aug 2009 Xing Hui and Hao Hao were born in Ya'an

B Jan 2014 Xing Hui and Hao Hao were moved to Dujiangyan to prepare for departure to Belgium

C Feb 22 Flight to Brussels

D Feb 23 Arrived in Brussels where the prime minister is among the welcome party. Then moved to zoo

SPECIAL SPECIES UNDER PANDA HABITAT

- Red Panda: Upper Yangtze River basin
- Crested Ibis: Qingling Mountain wetlands
- Golden snub-nosed monkey: Upper Yangtze River basin

HABITAT

45, 3m, 16

Giant pandas live in broadleaf and coniferous forests

3400m
Panda range

492m Shanghai World
330m World Trade Center III
Burj Khalifa 829.84m

DIET:
99% bamboo
1% Other plants and mast

12-37 Kilograms of bamboo a panda eats per day

Source: China Wildlife Conservation Association, WWF

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
CHINESE EMBASSY IN BELGIUM BELGIAN EMBASSY IN CHINA CHINESE MISSION TO EU

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