

Austria-born panda Fu Hu heads to China

November 7 2012



Panda Fu Hu eats bamboo at the Schoenbrunn zoo in Vienna on October 16, 2012. Equipped with a generous supply of bamboo for the long trip, Austrian-born panda Fu Hu was on his way to China on Wednesday, as stipulated under Vienna zoo's contract with Beijing, the zoo said.

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"Fu Hu got into his transport crate without hesitation and sat down,

completely relaxed," said Dagmar Schratter, director of Vienna's [Schoenbrunn Zoo](#) where the bear was born in 2010.

Leaving Vienna late on Tuesday, Fu Hu—"lucky tiger" in [Mandarin](#)—slept for most of the road journey to Amsterdam, where he was due to be put on a plane to China later on Wednesday.

In China, Fu Hu will join his elder brother Fu Long, whose birth in Vienna in 2007 was a minor sensation because it was the first time a European zoo had seen a panda born from natural conception.

Given the bears' endangered status and short mating time, zoos usually resort to [artificial insemination](#).

Fu Long, an immediate crowd-pleaser, also had to leave the baroque surroundings of [Vienna](#) zoo at the age of two under the same contractual obligation. In the wild, this is also the age that a cub leaves its parents.

The 10-year loan of the proud parents Yang Yang and Long Hui, meanwhile, expires in March but the zoo is in talks to extend the contract for another decade.

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