

Second red panda triplet dies at suburban Philadelphia zoo

January 6 2017

A red panda, a species listed as endangered, has died at a suburban Philadelphia zoo.

It was the second of triplets at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown to die.

The zoo says Shredder, a 2-year-old male, died Wednesday. A necropsy found an enlarged heart and thickened heart walls, both signs of heart disease.

A sibling, Clinger, died in December 2015 from encephalitis caused by a brain parasite.

Officials are examining the surviving triplet to ensure he's healthy.

Fewer than 10,000 red pandas live in the wild. The triplets came to the zoo in the spring of 2015 from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

The institute website says that despite sharing a name, red pandas aren't closely related to giant pandas. They are smaller and have no close living relatives.

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