

UK's only female giant panda artificially inseminated at zoo

April 1 2019



In this Monday, Dec 16, 2013 file photo, giant panda Tian Tian explores her enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo in Edinburgh, Scotland. Britain's only female giant panda has been artificially inseminated in a bid to produce a cub. Officials at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland said Monday April 1, 2019 it is "far too early" to know if the procedure was a success. (AP Photo/Scott Heppell, File)

Britain's only female giant panda has been artificially inseminated in a bid to produce a cub.

Officials at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland said Monday it's "far too early" to know if the procedure was a success. The zoo said Tian Tian had her annual health check on Sunday and was artificially inseminated "under expert veterinary care."

Tian Tian, 15, has had cubs in China but not in Britain, where she and male companion Yang Guang have lived since 2011. Her name means "sunshine."

There have been attempts to breed a cub every year since then, thus far without success. The zoo says the gestation period for a [giant panda](#) is typically about five months.

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