

# Thailand's sex-shy giant panda dies aged 19

September 17 2019

---



Chuang Chuang, a beloved giant panda on loan to Thailand from China, died in a Chiang Mai zoo aged 19

A beloved male giant panda on loan to Thailand from China has died aged 19 in Chiang Mai, leaving Thais on Tuesday to mourn the death of

a mammal whose sex life captivated the kingdom.

Chuang Chuang, a resident of the northern city's zoo since October 2003, arrived with female Lin Hui, where the pair lived in an air-conditioned enclosure.

The pair's mating habits—or lack of—became a source of relentless public intrigue, with Chuang Chuang put on a low-carb diet and shown video clips of panda's coupling in an attempt to spice up their sex drive.

After struggles to conceive, Lin Hui finally gave birth thanks to [artificial insemination](#) to Linping in 2009, spurring a widely-watched live 24-hour "Panda Channel".

Dismayed Thais woke up Tuesday to the news of Chuang Chuang's death.

"He was so lovely," said Twitter user @Janekwb.

"Rest in [peace](#), little bear."

Chiang Mai zoo director Wutthichai Muangmun said before his [death](#), Chuang Chuang was doing what he liked best—eating bamboo.

"He was walking around, but staggered and fell to the ground," he told reporters.

Each panda was insured for up to 15 million baht (\$490,000) under the agreement with China, he added.

On loan from Chengdu, the pair were a part of China's so-called "panda diplomacy", and were supposed to be returned in 2023.

Giant pandas are notorious for their low sex drive, and are among the world's most endangered animals.

Their average life expectancy ranges from 15 to 20 year in the wild, but they can live up to 30 years in captivity, according to WWF.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Thailand's sex-shy giant panda dies aged 19 (2019, September 17) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-09-thailand-sex-shy-giant-panda-dies.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.