

Twin giant pandas born in Tokyo zoo

Vocabulary

to be allowed

to solicit

to exclude

to garner

Article

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike announced on Friday that the twin giant pandas born at Tokyo's Ueno Zoological Gardens in June have been named Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei.

In a press conference, Koike said that when combined, the meaning of their names meant, "leading to the future from a bright dawn". Members of the public will be allowed to see the pandas from next January.

192,000 suggestions were received in a space of 14 days after the zoo solicited ideas from the public. The names were decided by a selection committee that excluded the names of specific characters as well as the names of other pandas in Japan.

Lei Lei was the second most popular choice, garnering 7,617 votes, while Xiao Xiao gained 482 votes.

Based on an Oct 8th, 2021 article from Kyodo News (All Rights Reserved) [english.kyodonews.net]

Quiz

1. When will the public be able to see Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei?
2. Why do you think the most popular name wasn't chosen by the committee?

Conversation

A: Hi Miena, what have you been up to lately?

B: Oh, you didn't hear? A bunch of us went to the zoo to see the baby pandas!

A: You mean the twins?! Aww... I'd love to see those fuzzy little things!

B: You must! They're adorable. We're going back next week. Come with us!

Discussion

1. What do you know about pandas? Have you ever seen one?
2. When was the last time you went to a zoo? Tell me about it.
3. Some people think zoos should be abolished. What do you think about that?
4. If you could be a zoo animal, what would you be?