

1

Article :**[Hidden Wonders of Japan] Ueno Zoo's Twin Panda Cubs are So Adorable and So Hard to Name!**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

The time to name Ueno Zoo's twin panda cubs is fast approaching, and it's a much bigger job than you might expect. The zoo announced on August 26 that they received 192,712 name suggestions from the public for the giant panda cubs born on June 23.

This time, the zoo received 188,720 name ideas for the twins via Internet submission and 3,992 via suggestion boxes placed at the park. This may seem a lot, but is actually fewer than when their older sister, Xiang Xiang was born four years ago, and the public provided 322,581 name suggestions.

A naming committee consisting of six members, including television personality Tetsuko Kuroyanagi and music critic Reiko Yukawa, have been appointed to narrow down options for the cubs. They will meet at the end of September, 2021.

Based on their recommendations, Tokyo will decide on the two names and announce them in mid-October.

According to the zoo, the twins are three months old and in good health. Measured on the 90-day anniversary of their birth, the female weighed 5.2 kg and the male 5 kg, both up markedly from their birth weights of 146 grams and 142 grams, respectively.

Source: [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Ueno Zoo's Twin Panda Cubs are So Adorable and So Hard to Name!

<https://japan-forward.com/hidden-wonders-of-japan-ueno-zoos-twin-panda-cubs-are-so-adorable-and-so-hard-to-name/>

2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. adorable ～可愛らしい、愛くるしい、愛すべき

She has really adorable two-year-old daughter.

2. name 名付ける、名前を挙げる

We are going to name our first son after my grandfather.

3. consist of ～ ～で構成される、～から成る

Their full course dinner consists of 1 main course, 2 different side dishes, and 1 dessert.

4. narrow down / narrow ～ down (候補や選択肢を)絞り込む、範囲を限定する

We narrowed the list of candidates down from ten to three.

5. respectively それぞれ、一つひとつ、各々

According to the survey, Hokkaido and Kyoto placed first and second respectively in the ranking.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How did Ueno Zoo accept name suggestions besides via Internet?

2. When will we know the names of the twin panda cubs?

3. Have you ever seen pandas? If “Yes,” where? and how were they?
If “No,” would you like to see them sometime?

4. What names can you think of for panda cubs?

4

日本語関連記事：

双子の赤ちゃんパンダ、10月中旬にも命名 公募に19万件

東京・上野動物園は26日、6月に生まれたジャイアントパンダの双子の赤ちゃんの名前公募に、19万2712件の応募があったと発表した。今後は選考委員会での検討を経て、10月中旬にも命名する見通し。

園は今月7～20日に名前を募集。応募の内訳はインターネットが18万8720件、園内などの応募箱が3992件だった。4年前に誕生した姉のシャンシャンには、パンダの名前公募として最多の32万2581件が集まったが、今回は及ばなかった。

選考委員には俳優の黒柳徹子さんや音楽評論家の湯川れい子さんら6人が就任した。選考委員会は9月末に開かれ、その後、都が名前を決めて発表する。

園によると、双子は生後2カ月となり、健康状態は良好。8月24日の計測で、いずれも体重3キロを超えた。

出典：双子の赤ちゃんパンダ、10月中旬にも命名 公募に19万件

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