

# The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 25 Number 15 □ August 3, 2015 □ www.asianreporter.com



Japan starts over on Olympic stadium plan

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Attendees endure heat at Natsu Matsuri

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## Oldest ever giant panda celebrates with bamboo and veggie cake



**RECORD-BREAKING BIRTHDAY.** Giant panda Jia Jia tastes her birthday cake — made of ice and vegetables — at Ocean Park in Hong Kong while celebrating her 37th birthday on July 28, 2015. In human years, Jia Jia is about 110 years old. She broke two Guinness World Records on her special day. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

HONG KONG (AP) — The oldest giant panda ever in captivity tasted a vegetable ice cake and, of course, bamboo in celebration of her 37th birthday.

Jia Jia was recognized as holding two Guinness World Records — the oldest ever and the oldest living giant panda. Her mate, An An, also marked a birthday, his 29th.

Born in 1978, Jia Jia was sent to Hong Kong Ocean Park with An An in 1999. They were given by China to mark the second anniversary of Hong Kong's hand-over.


Jia Jia has had six babies and four are still living.

The park's veterinary service director, Paolo Martelli, says typical panda life

expectancy is around 20 years and only eight of about 400 living in captivity today are older than 30.

So, he says, "it's quite exceptional to reach such an old age for a panda."

Jia Jia's age equals about 110 years for humans. She suffers high blood pressure and arthritic pain, though her health is stable.



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