

Hi everyone. My name is Pam the GIANT PANDA and I am native to China. There, I am considered a treasure, so I have no clue why I am being hunted. It makes no sense. Though my fur looks nice and soft to cuddle, it does not give humans the right to hunt my kind and steal our fur. My kind have really good smelling abilities so we can smell pretty much anything. But sometimes, if predators or humans sneak up on us, they can attack us and steal our fur and kill us.

The forests in the high mountains are where I live and I love them. As a baby, I was the size of what humans call bootar (butter). But my momma was 200 lbs and my papa was 300 lbs. I have gotten bigger but I am still small compared to my parents. I hope to grow big and strong like them so that I can hunt and save my kind.

I basically only eat bamboo and when I eat, I eat a lot. Did you know that the adults of my kind eat twelve hours a day and it adds up to 26-84 pounds each day? To eat all of our bamboo, we use our wrists that are similar to human thumbs. Though we do have to use the bathroom a lot. What? We can't help but eat a lot.

What is really sad is that we live kind of alone and the females only search for mates in the spring. If the female happens to have a baby, they only have one or two. The birth rate, if that's what you call it, is really, really low. The population of my kind is either 1,000, 1,600, or 3,000. There are

around 250 giant pandas in zoos in China and people absolutely love us. But there is one question that a lot of people ask. Why are we so rare? Well you would have to ask the humans or poachers who are hunting us. They are one of the reasons why we are endangered and how other species are endangered too.

Poaching has decreased and there are now laws that are in place but one other major reason is the loss of our habitat. It began around 1950 when China's population expanded tremendously. Because of the increase in development, there was a ton of farming but also deforestation. For people who are younger and not as experienced with big words, this word means the clearing of trees. Because of all this stuff happening, we got kicked out of our home. My momma, who is sixteen and my papa who is seventeen in panda years, told me that their parents, my grandparents, were two of many pandas who were forced to leave their home. They hid while the Chinese people built roads and railroads. They said it was so loud that they could not live in peace like they had just a couple of months before.

As you may have heard me say above, mating is very hard because of the female giant pandas' short reproductive window. But because of the building and construction that was going on with my grandparents, which still affects us today, mating became and still is incredibly hard. The construction also cut the supply of bamboo that my kind really needs. It is basically our only source of food so you can see why this was a very hard time and was very aggravating. Thankfully, the Chinese people opened fifty

panda reserves which I think is one of the nicest things they have done in a good amount of time. I am so, so, SO excited that we may get a bigger population of our kind in the coming years.

I really do not want to go extinct. That would be the worst thing ever. I am just so cute that it would be so sad if I died. Think about all the tiny children out there who would love to see pictures of my kind or even see me in the wild. If my kind went extinct, then no one would be able to see my kind ever again. Children would be so sad and miss their favorite animal. That is why poaching must stop and people must protect my kind!

I am so excited that I got to tell you a little bit about my life and I hope that you will see my kind on the rise soon! Bye!