

LEVELED BOOK • I

# Tian Tian, a Giant Panda



Written by Melanie Shepherd

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This is Tian Tian.

He is a **giant panda**.

Most giant pandas have black and white fur like Tian Tian.





Tian Tian has black fur around his eyes.  
Raccoons have black fur around  
their eyes, too.

But Tian Tian is not a raccoon.  
He is a **bear**.

All giant pandas are bears.





The place where Tian Tian was born in China

Tian Tian was born in China.  
He now lives at a zoo  
in the United States.  
He came to the United States  
when he was three years old.  
In China, he lived at a  
**special** place for pandas.





China is the only place  
where **wild** giant pandas live.  
They live in mountain **forests**.  
There are only about 1,600  
wild giant pandas in China.





All giant pandas eat a plant called **bamboo**.

Bamboo grows in the mountain forests in China.

More people are cutting down the forests.

Without bamboo, giant pandas cannot **survive**.





Tian Tian and his mate Mei Xiang eat.

Tian Tian eats bamboo.

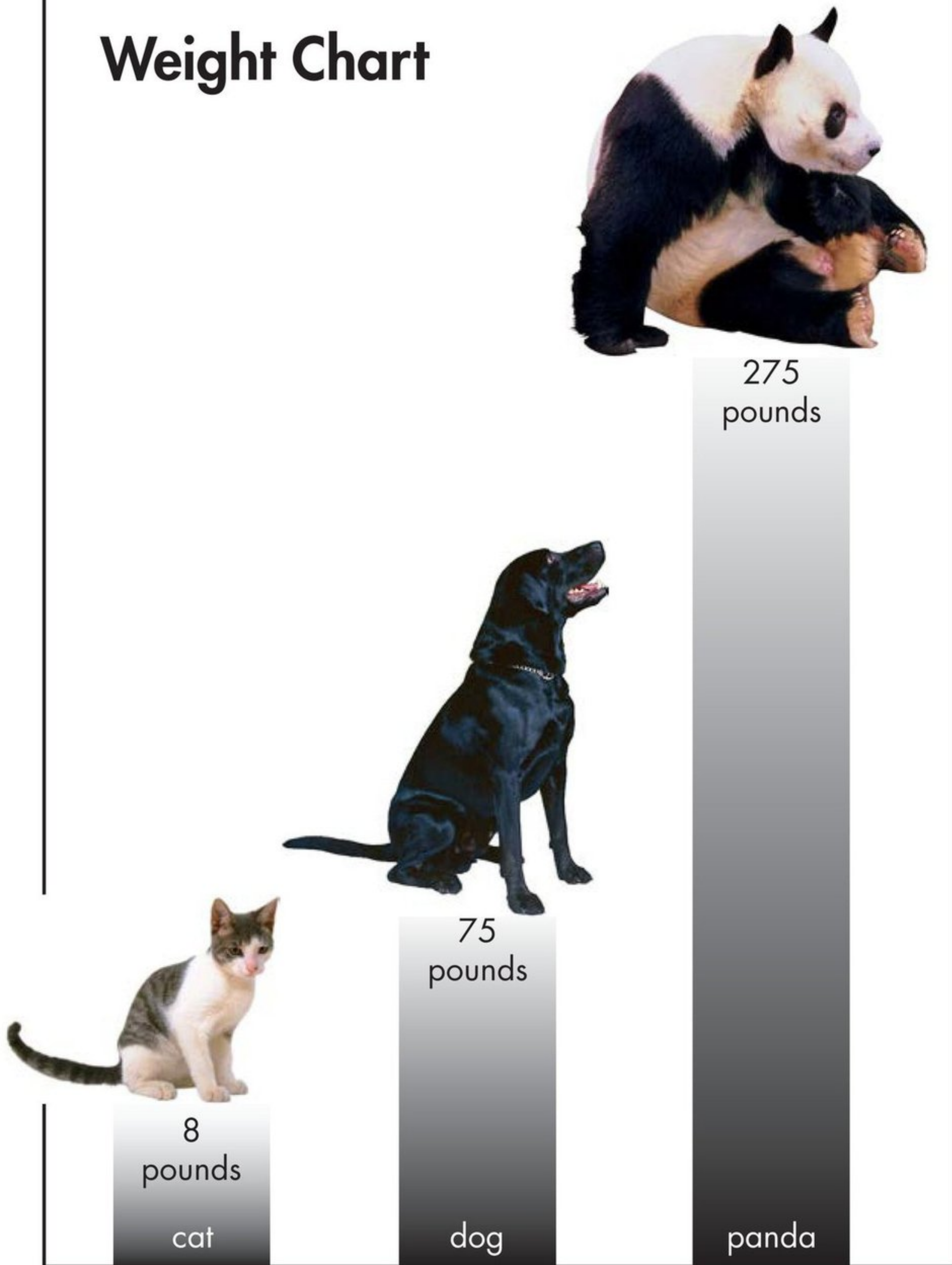
He can eat 40 pounds  
of bamboo every day.

He also eats biscuits.

He eats special fruit popsicles, too.



# Weight Chart



Tian Tian is very big and strong.  
He **weighs** 275 pounds.  
That's as much as 34 cats.





Tian Tian's baby Tai Shan, top, with his mom Mei Xiang

Tian Tian turned eight years old in 2005.  
He became a father in 2005, too.  
His baby was born at the zoo.  
The baby is growing strong  
like Tian Tian.





Tian Tian and Mei Xiang play at the zoo.

Tian Tian stays strong by playing.

He plays with toys.

He also plays in trees.

Do you like to play?

How is Tian Tian like you?



## Glossary

<b>bamboo</b> <i>(n.)</i>	a plant with long woody stems and long leaves (p. 7)
<b>bear</b> <i>(n.)</i>	large animal with lots of fur and a short tail (p. 4)
<b>forests</b> <i>(n.)</i>	large areas of land where lots of trees grow (p. 6)
<b>giant panda</b> <i>(n.)</i>	bear from China that eats bamboo and has black-and-white fur (p. 3)
<b>special</b> <i>(adj.)</i>	for a certain thing or purpose (p. 5)
<b>survive</b> <i>(v.)</i>	to stay alive (p. 7)
<b>weighs</b> <i>(v.)</i>	to have a certain heaviness or weight (p. 9)
<b>wild</b> <i>(adj.)</i>	living or growing in nature (p. 6)



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