

I Have Long Been an **Ambassador** *for Giant Pandas*



我的“熊猫守护使”历程

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“ Now I'm an Official
Chengdu Pambassador...”



杰罗姆正在发表获选感言
Jérôme Pouille gives a speech after he takes first place in the 2013 Pambassador competition.



熊猫守护使终极决赛的熊猫常识问答环节
Panda Facts event during the Pambassador competition



杰罗姆完成了终极决赛的全部环节
Jérôme Pouille completes the final round in the competition.



刚刚获选2012年成都全球守护使的杰罗姆与大熊猫合影留念
Jérôme Pouille poses with a giant panda after he becomes the Pambassador.

2012年9月，成都大熊猫繁育研究基地、野生救援协会以及姚基金共同主办了第二届全球招募成都熊猫守护使活动，旨在推选出三位熊猫守护使以促进大熊猫保护事业的发展。

当我获知参赛信息的时候，当获知参赛信息时，我立刻意识到：在某种意义上，我早已是一名大熊猫守护使了。我开办的域名为www.pandas.fr的大熊猫专题网站从创办到现在已整整十年了，向人们介绍大熊猫的基本知识。我每周更新与大熊猫相关的重要发现，当然我最关注的是成都熊猫基地的繁殖季节和繁育情况。

2012年1月，我到巴黎戴高乐机场欢迎“欢欢”和“园仔”这两只大熊猫的到来。因此，熊猫守护使招募活动一开始，我便毫不犹豫地参加了。

在脸书网站（facebook）上繁琐的注册后，在朋友们及网站访客们的支持下，我终于有幸成为欧洲赛区半决赛前24强选手之一。此后又经过一系列的角逐，我有幸成为欧洲地区四强选手之一到成都参加决赛。

11月17日周六那天，我们到达了成都双流国际机场，在那儿受到了比赛组委会的热情欢迎。我收到了一束美丽的鲜花和一只熊猫毛绒玩具，这为我在中国为期三

周的生活开了一个好头。

第一周我们在成都大熊猫繁育研究基地的领导、科研人员、饲养员和兽医们的陪伴下度过的。

印象最深的是10月30日的早上，我们学习了熊猫行为强化训练的基本知识。行为强化训练是指教导熊猫如何听从指令保持某个特定的姿态，并适当给予奖励。这种训练的结果，就可以使兽医们在不对熊猫实施麻醉的情况下采血，做超声波检查，身体测量或在繁殖季节采集细胞样本等。我训练的是2009年7月19日出生的3岁多的母熊猫“文莉”。后肢站立，坐下和用鼻子碰触铁棒，是我们这次训练的三个动作。为了让她听得懂，我用中文发音喊出这三个指令，当“文莉”完成每个动作我便吹响特制的哨子，然后给她一块苹果作为奖励。每个指令反复测试了数次，期间“文莉”都非常配合。

另一个亮点就是为期5天的大熊猫栖息地之旅，我们参观了龙溪-虹口国家自然保护区，那儿生活着数百种珍稀动植物，约6只野生大熊猫。2008年5月的汶川大地震严重影响到了大熊猫的生活，但红外摄影机仍持续捕捉着它们的踪影。我们在那里观察到了大熊猫采食竹子的残渣和它们的粪便。

随后我们讨论了中国大熊猫野放的现状，参观了位于都江堰的新研究基地——成都大熊猫繁育研究基地都江堰繁育野放研究中心。在更接近于野生条件的环境中，圈养大熊猫将在该中心接受必要的生存训练，最终被放归自然。

众所周知，在本届全球熊猫守护使招募活动中，我荣获第一。来自中国的陈寅蓉和来自美国的梅丽莎·卡茨是另外两位获胜者，我们三人将在2013年一起担任熊猫守护使的角色。

作为熊猫守护使，我们的使命是促进大熊猫及其栖息地的保护，推而广之就是促进对所有濒危物种的保护。赛后的“全球守护使之旅”将带我们去15个国家履行使命，其中也有我的故乡法国。

2013年，我会一如既往地在我的网站和经历写在我的网站的专栏中（www.pandas.fr）和脸书网站上（www.facebook.com/pandas.fr）。

最后，我要感谢成都大熊猫繁育研究基地的全体员工。他们的专业素养极高，态度亲切而友好，随时为我们解答大熊猫相关疑问。在这里我还要感谢熊猫基地主任张志和博士，他为大熊猫保护和繁育工作做出了巨大的贡献，十分令人钦佩。



熊猫守护使终极决赛的熊猫食用竹
辨别、称重环节
Jérôme Pouille competes in the Bamboo
Challenge.

The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, WildAid Association, and Yao Ming Foundation launched the second annual Chengdu Pambassador contest in September 2012. The aim was to select three ambassadors for giant pandas and their conservation.

When I received the announcement of this contest, I immediately thought that I was already an ambassador of the giant panda. In fact, I had run the website www.pandas.fr for ten years. The website is dedicated to the giant panda with a lot of general information about their biology, history, habitat, behavior, reproduction, communication, but also with recent data about the efforts of China to better protect the wild population and to study how to support the wild population with captive-born individuals.

I wrote articles every week about the most important discoveries, about observations of wild pandas, and about all the pandas inside and outside China. Every summer I updated the list of births in Chinese institutions with an emphasis on the breeding season and births at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

In January 2012 I was at the Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle Airport to see the arrival of Huan Huan and Yuan Zi, two sub-adult pandas from Chengdu

Panda Base who are now living at Zoo Parc of Beauval in France. Simultaneously, I rejoiced in the opening of Panda Valley, a unique base where captive-born pandas would be trained to live in more natural enclosures. With the launch of the Chengdu Pambassador contest, I did not hesitate to participate.

After tens of thousands of registrations on the Facebook application specially dedicated to the contest and with the support of my friends and my website's visitors, I was pleased to be selected as one of 24 semi-finalists for the Europe/Middle East/Africa region. The semi-finals were held in Edinburgh, Scotland from Friday 12 to Monday 15 October. Throughout the weekend, we had to perform five main tasks: a group activity with children aged 7 to 10 years to raise awareness about the natural resources of Sichuan; a conference by Darren McGarry (animal collections manager at Edinburgh Zoo) followed by an individual questionnaire on giant pandas, the Chengdu Panda Base and Chengdu city; a treasure hunt in the city of Edinburgh; a sporting event (Go Ape); and finally an individual filmed interview to describe our reasons for wanting to be selected as a Pambassador.

The four finalists were announced Sunday evening at the headquarters of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and I had the great pleasure to

learn that I was a finalist alongside Ylenia, an Italian, and Aimee and Julie, both British.

With a Chinese visa in my pocket, we landed at the international airport in Chengdu on Saturday, November 17. A welcoming committee from the Pambassador contest greeted us with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a plush panda. My first visit to China began auspiciously and it nearly slipped my mind that I was here for three weeks to compete with 15 other finalists for the top three places.

We spent our first week at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding immersed alongside keepers, veterinarians, scientists, and leaders of the institution whose objectives were conservation, public awareness, captive breeding, and scientific research. We were given both theoretical and practical training by working directly with the pandas housed at the base.

I particularly remember the morning of October 30. That morning was dedicated to learning the key concepts of operant conditioning, also known as positive reinforcement or training. Training consisted of teaching giant pandas to adopt a particular position, depending on the given order, in exchange for a reward. This training was invaluable when it came time for simple medical examinations or non-invasive research, and thus we could avoid repeated

anesthesia and stress. For example, veterinarians at the Chengdu Panda Base could collect blood, conduct ultrasounds, take body measurements or conduct cell sampling (during the breeding season) without anesthetizing the animals. I used the new training technique with a female panda named Wen Li who was just over three years old, born on July 19, 2009. We tested three orders: standing on hind legs, sitting, and touching an iron rod with her nose. With each command, I enunciated the Chinese word associated with the action. If Wen Li followed the command, a whistle sounded and she was rewarded with a piece of apple. Each order was tested several times and Wen Li was very cooperative.

Another highlight of our stay was spending five days in the natural habitat of the giant panda at Longxi-Hongkou National Nature Reserve which is also home to hundreds of other rare plants and animal species. Access to the giant panda's natural habitat is strictly controlled and we had the wonderful opportunity to learn and to explore this unique ecosystem alongside the reserve staff who do a difficult job in often rudimentary living conditions.

The reserve, inhabited by about six wild pandas, was severely affected by the earthquake in May 2008, but infrared cameras photograph and help researchers study and protect the wild pandas. We observed the remains of bamboo and panda droppings.

My trip was also an opportunity to discuss China's efforts to use its captive panda population to support wild populations through reintroduction. With this in mind, we visited a new panda base in Dujiangyan where pandas born in captivity were trained to survive conditions more similar to those of the natural environment with the ultimate goal of reintroducing

them into the wild.

I placed first in the contest and won the title Chengdu Pambassador. Alongside me were Chen Yinrong, a Chinese woman, and Melissa an American; my two Pambassador companions for the year 2013. The mission of the three winners is to promote the conservation of the giant panda and its habitat and more generally the conservation of threatened species during a Panda Global Conservation Tour in fifteen countries, including France.

Just as I did during the final, I will host a column on my website (www.pandas.fr) and on my facebook

page (www.facebook.com/pandas.fr) where you can follow my experience and adventure in 2013.

Finally, I want to congratulate the staff at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding for the quality of their work, for their kindness, and for the time they took to share their knowledge with me. A special thanks goes to Dr. Zhang Zhihe who works tirelessly for the protection and breeding of giant pandas.



杰罗姆在熊猫守护使终极决赛的
熊猫丰富成品展示环节
Jérôme Pouille introduces his
enrichment equipment for giant
pandas in the final competition.