



# Giant tortoise

## dies in France at 146

### 法國巨型陸龜享壽146歲



One of the oldest giant tortoises in Europe has died at its home in Paris at the age of 146, its carers announced.

Kiki, a male tortoise, was brought to France fully grown from Mauritius in 1923, Michel Saint-Jalme, director of the wildlife center in Paris's Jardin des Plantes where the animal lived, told AFP.

Kiki stayed in Paris throughout the German **occupation** in World War II right up to his death from an **infection** due to **lesions** in his gut — something not unusual for a tortoise of his age, Saint-Jalme said.

"He was eating normally," Saint-Jalme said. "But he had been showing signs that he was not well for several days."

Kiki weighed 250kg and had to be moved around using a fork-lift machine. He left behind him four other younger and smaller giant tortoises in the wildlife center.

Saint-Jalme said he believed Kiki to be one of the biggest tortoises in Europe — among some 375 of the endangered species of giant tortoises in captivity and 150,000 in the wild.

Many of the staff at the center developed **a soft spot** for Kiki. "We are all rather moved by his death, because he was one of the stars of the gardens," Saint-Jalme said. (AFP)

歐洲一隻最高齡陸龜的飼養員宣佈，這隻陸龜已在牠巴黎的家中過世，享壽一百四十六歲。

雄龜「奇奇」居住的巴黎植物園野生動物中心主任米榭爾·聖加姆對法新社表示，「奇奇」一九二三年從摩里西斯共和國被送到法國時已經成年。

聖加姆說，奇奇二次世界大戰德國佔領期間就住在巴黎，直到因消化道病變感染病逝——該病因對像牠這年紀的陸龜而言頗為常見。

聖加姆說：「牠的進食正常，但過世前幾天便出現身體欠佳的警示。」

奇奇體重兩百五十公斤，得靠堆高機才能搬動牠。牠死後，野生動物中心還剩下四隻較年輕、體型也較小的巨型陸龜。

聖加姆說，他相信奇奇是全歐洲體型最大的陸龜之一——全世界約有三百七十五隻瀕臨絕種的人工飼養巨型陸龜，和十五萬隻野生陸龜。

野生動物中心許多職員和奇奇培養了深厚的感情，聖加姆說：「牠的去世令我們相當感傷，因為牠是園裡的明星之一。」 (法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

Above: Recent photos released by the National Museum of Natural History shows Kiki, a male Seychelles Turtle, which died at the age of 146 on Dec. 4, 2009 at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

PHOTOS: AFP

上圖：法國國立自然博物館日前提供的資料照片中，是十二月四日以一百四十六歲高齡、在巴黎植物園過世的雄性塞席爾龜「奇奇」。

照片：法新社

## TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

### 1. **occupation** /ˌɑkjə'peɪʃən/ n.

佔領 (zhan4 ling3)

**例：**The international community has asked the military to end its occupation.

(國際社會要求該軍終止其佔領行動。)

### 2. **infection** /ɪn'fɛkʃən/ n.

感染 (gan2 ran3)

**例：**Wesley was hospitalized with a mystery infection.

(衛斯理因不知名感染而住院治療。)

### 3. **lesion** /'li:ʒən/ n.

損害 (sun3 hai4)

**例：**The doctors are still trying to work out the cause of the patient's lesions.

(醫生還在設法找出該病患器官受損的原因。)

## IDIOM POINT 重要片語

### a soft spot 產生好感

You have **a soft spot** for someone if you feel affection for them. Sometimes the expression implies that the feelings are held privately.

Examples: "Dale was reluctant to admit that he had **a soft spot** for his cousin's dog," or "Why don't you just admit that you've got **a soft spot** for Reg?"

若說你對某人有「a soft spot」，意思就是你對某人產生好感。有時候這個片語指的是暗自產生的情感。

例如：「戴爾心不甘情不願地承認他很喜歡他表哥的狗」，或是「你為甚麼不乾脆承認自己對雷格有好感？」。