

Benny, the Bear of Wakayama Castle Park Zoo

Wakayama Castle Park Zoo is a unique zoo located on the grounds of a castle.

Benny, an Asian black bear, lived here and was loved by many people in Wakayama prefecture. In 2015, she was appointed director of the zoo. She passed away of old age on July 18, 2024.

Profile

Species : Asian black bear (*ursus thibetanus*)

Gender : Female

Date of birth : January 31, 1993

Body length : About 140 cm

Body weight : About 100 kg

Favorite foods : Peach, Melon



Benny's life

- 1993 Birth
- 1994 Came to the zoo from Kyoto city zoo
- 2015 Appointed a director in the first zoo director election
- 2024 Died (31 years old)

Preserving Benny for future generations

After Benny passed away, a volunteer group called “Wakayama friend-zoo Guide” launched a project to preserve her memory for future generations. The group received Benny’s remains from Wakayama city and raised funds through crowd funding to have her preserved as a taxidermy specimen. After the specimen was completed, her taxidermy specimen was then donated to the WAKAYAMA Prefectural Museum of Natural History.

What Benny tells us

Keeping and displaying animals, as well as preserving taxidermy specimens gives us valuable opportunities to learn about wild animals up close.

By discovering their abilities and way of life is the first step to understanding the natural world around us.

We made three specimens

Taxidermy

You can see what the animal was like when it was alive.

Skeletal specimen

You can see anatomy of body or bone.

Tissue specimen

You can get genetic information.