

The rare giant 'living fossil' salamander stuck two years in the sewer line

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The salamander was found in Ms. Wu's home.(Video: Pear.)

After a long delay in the sewer in the house, Ms. Wu and her husband decided to replace the larger pipe. On the afternoon of November 18, when Wu's husband and grandson repaired the pipe in the kitchen, they discovered the salamander.

At that time, the amphibian had a dark color, so at first her husband thought it was a carp. But Ms. Wu immediately recognized the giant Chinese salamander animal because she had seen one in 1987.

The animal is 80 cm long, 20 cm wide and weighs 5.4 kg.

Ms. Wu's family dropped it into a large tank in the kitchen. But at midnight, Ms. Wu heard a sound like a baby crying from behind the house and found the salamander escaping to the backyard. Ms. Wu said during the past two years, she often heard similar cries coming from the sewer.



Giant salamander is the largest amphibian in the world. Because they still retain most of the features for 170 million years, they are dubbed the "living fossils". In addition, because the salamanders in China have the same sound as babies' cries, they are also called "wa wa yu", meaning "newborn fish".

After being handed over to the Jiangxia Wildlife Protection Station by her husband and wife, the giant salamander was released into Shagang reservoir on November 19. According to a spokesman for the station, two years ago, the salamander crawled into the sewer pipeline of Ms. Wu's house as a child and stuck there after growing up.

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