

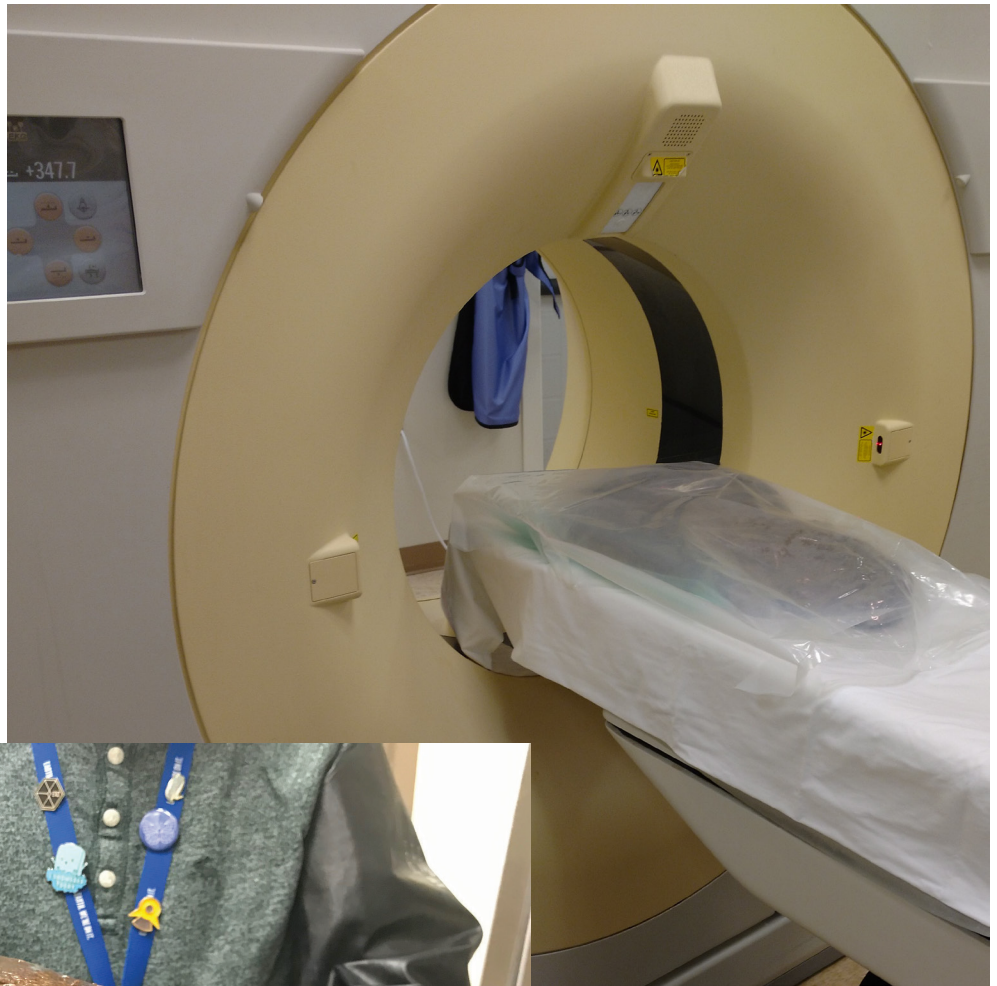
A large, dark brown Japanese Giant Salamander is shown lying on a white surface. A ruler is placed vertically to the left of the salamander for scale. The salamander's body is covered in a bumpy, textured skin. Its head is on the right, and its tail is on the left. The ruler shows measurements in centimeters, ranging from 4 to 26.

Specimen Spotlight: Japanese Giant Salamander

FIE
MUSEUM
LD. SCIENCE
HUB AT
HOME

photo provided by Alan Resetar

The salamander is going into a CT scanner for research



Alan Resetar



Anna Villanyi

A Field Museum scientist removes a salamander from a storage tank filled with alcohol.

Meet the largest salamander in our collection! This Japanese Giant Salamander was preserved at the Field Museum in 1939 after its life at the Shedd Aquarium. It was in a group of salamanders that came to the Aquarium shortly after it opened as a gift from a Japanese diplomat. This specimen was digitally scanned so scientists can study it from around the world.

Color your own GIANT salamander

The state salamander of Illinois is the Tiger Salamander.

There are over 500 species of salamanders in the world, including 20 in Illinois!

The Field museum has over 33,000 salamander specimens in the research collection.

The Japanese Giant Salamander is one of the largest salamander species in the world. The largest in Illinois is the Hellbender which is 20 inches long, longer than most XL pizzas!

Japanese Giant Salamanders can get to be 4-5 feet long. This is comparable to large dogs or a child's bed! You would need four of these drawings nose to tail to be the length of that giant salamander!

