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**PANDAS**  
INTERNATIONAL



**April 2009 eNewsletter**

## The Taiwan Timeline: Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan's Journey

### **January 25, 2009: Children Get First Look at the Taiwan Panda Preview**

Kathy Harcombe of BBC News reports

About 500 children have taken the first look at the pandas given by Beijing to Taiwan, before the panda house opens to the public.

The giant pandas, called Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, symbolize a "peace, unity and friendship" offer from China to Taiwan.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7849624.stm>

### **So How Hot are the Taiwan Twosome? Well, to date:**

- Over 500,000 visitors have come to the Taipei Zoo
- 100 Songs have been written in their honor
- Visitors are waiting over 12 hours for a 10 minute viewing
- The Zoo's gift shop is selling over 500 different "Panda Items"

### **January 26th: Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan Make Public Debut at Taipei Zoo**

*Asia-Pacific News, January 28, 2009, Taipei* — Two giant pandas sent as a goodwill gift to Taiwan from China made their formal debut at the Taipei Zoo on the first day of the Chinese New Year, which fell on January 26th.

Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, whose names together mean "reunion" are adapting well to life at the Taipei Zoo, and changing their eating habits from Chinese bamboo to Taiwanese bamboo, zoo officials said.

They also stated the four year olds are now consuming more than 30 kilograms of bamboo each day, in addition to carrots, apples, steamed buns made with bamboo powder, corn, soybeans, and sugar.

Pandas are an endangered species with just 1,590 of them living in the wild — mostly in China's southwest — and more than 180 living in captivity around the world.

### **February 14th: Giant Pandas make 'Outdoor' Debut on Valentine's Day**

*TAIPEI, Taiwan* — Giant pandas Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan were allowed in the outdoor display area of their special exhibit facility at the Taipei Zoo for the first time during operating hours on Valentine's Day.

Because the giant pandas had spent about a month and a half in the indoor display area, which is carefully noise-controlled, highly sensitive Yuan Yuan was a bit shocked to hear visitors' voices and outside noise for the first time and stood still for a while, said Jin Shih-Chien, spokesman of the zoo. Tuan Tuan on the other hand was unaffected, added Jin. The zoo said they would make recordings of visitors' voices and outside noise in the inside display area so they can get used to the sounds.

The day's temperatures fluctuated around 20 degrees Celsius, which was suitable for them to be outside, he said. During summer, the giant pandas will probably be allowed outside during nighttime or at dusk so they

Since the 1950s, China has given dozens of pandas to foreign countries to cement ties, giving rise to the term 'panda diplomacy.'

## Your Donations in Action

*Dear Suzanne,*

*Thank you very much for the Blood Chemistry Analyzer. The headquarters has sent its engineers to install the analyzer. It performs very well.*

*After we purchase the reagent, computer, and printer it can be put into use. See pictures.*

*Yours,  
Wang Chengdong*



*Of course, thanks go to Mindray Medical USA Corp. who provided us this piece of equipment at a significant savings and the donors who made it possible for us to purchase it.*

can engage in outdoor activity, the spokesman said.

The spokesman also noted that Yuan Yuan, the female, is showing signs of being in heat. She is exhibiting sexually receptive behaviors such as rubbing tails, playing with water, increased walking activity, decreased appetite, and sending out excited calls. Yuan Yuan will be kept primarily indoors under observation in the following days, while Tuan Tuan, who is still very quiet, will be allowed to move freely between the indoor and outdoor display areas. The pair will inevitably spend some time apart in the upcoming days, he added.

Taipei City Mayor Hau Lung-bin also visited the zoo on the 14th of February, along with his wife to greet some 43 families (out of 300) who won no-wait "VIP tickets" to the zoo's panda house.

Hau said that giant pandas are the city's "hottest" animals right now.



*Giant pandas Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan play in the outdoor display area of their special exhibit at the Taipei Zoo.*

## Other Bears on the Move:

### The Beijing Pandas Return to Bifengxia

The eight pandas that traveled to Beijing for the Olympic Games will be making their way back to the Bifengxia Panda Center on the 20th of March. Their return will coincide with the conclusion of the "Thank the World, Lighten the Hope, Thanks Tourism around China" activity. The goal of Chengdu TV station's ceremony is to thank the cities that gave a hand to Wolong after the devastating earthquake of May 2008.

## Twin Panda Cubs Born at the Bifengxia Panda Center

As these adorable twin giant panda cubs playfully

***Flat Stanley, World Traveler,  
Visits the Bifengxia Center!***



are said to be in good health just five months after an earthquake.

They are one of the first twins delivered this year at the Bifengxia base of the China Giant Panda Protection and Research Center in the Sichuan Province.

It was cause for celebration. In keeping with traditional Chinese custom, the naming ceremony took place 100 days after their birth. The names decided upon were, Ping Ping and An An. When you put the names together Ping An means "safety" symbolizing the happiness felt by all to be safe after the earthquake.

Scientists at the research base hope to increase the captive population and are pleased that 13 giant pandas have been born this year at the Center. Last year, the number of captive bred giant pandas was 239 throughout China.

Before the earthquake — which hit on May 12 killing 70,000 people — there were 63 pandas kept at Wolong. After the quake hit, 53 of them were transferred to breeding bases in other areas. The rest were kept in safe places at Wolong. Among the panda casualties were one killed, one missing and another became sick and died.

roll around on the floor, they seem worlds away from the devastating earthquake that destroyed much of their habitat in southwest China. The cubs, born to Guo Guo,

Flat Stanley is a humorous tale of a boy who becomes "flat" when his bulletin board falls on him. Stanley realizes that there are



several advantages to being flat, such as the ability to slide under doors, through bars, and yes, being mailed in an envelope for long trips. People eventually begin to make fun of Stanley, and he tires of being flat. His brother uses a bicycle pump to make Stanley round again.

Through the tireless fundraising of Mirella, a student from California, she was able to raise the \$ 500.00 to adopt Tao Tao at the Bifengxia Center. Because Mirella could not make the trip to see Tao Tao and the other residents of the center, she sent Flat Stanley.

## Time for School! Baby Pandas Start Kindergarten

Thirteen baby pandas born after the devastating earthquake in China's Sichuan Province last May have begun panda kindergarten.

The baby bears, ages between seven and nine months, were moved to a sanctuary aiming to teach them how to survive life in the wild when they are released.

They were some of the 54 pandas brought to the Bifengxia Panda Center after the earthquake damaged the Wolong Nature Reserve, China's main panda breeding Center.

Chinese state television showed off footage of the cubs in the "panda kindergarten."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7917363.stm>



## Trapped Panda Rescued by Local Farmers

An injured panda was rescued and returned to the wild by farmers in Hongya, Sichuan province. The farmers found the injured panda when it was trapped between some rocks in Hongya Wawushan Nature Reserve last Monday.

They spent more than two hours removing the animal, and after medical treatment, they sent the panda back to the wild.

Source: [www.chinanews.com.cn](http://www.chinanews.com.cn)

## A Note from a Member

Pandas International,

I was all set to meet Huan Huan in Wolong, (where I had arranged through Kim to do a couple of day's volunteering), when the earthquake struck.

I went ten days later as far as Chengdu and went again to the Panda Breeding Centre there. There were only seven visitors that day. I did get to hold Ling Ling, a ten month's old panda reared there.

I later went to Beijing zoo where I knew eight panda's from Wolong had been sent a few days before. They were still adjusting and not on view.

As I left China, they found one of the two missing pandas in the hills some distance from Wolong.

Simon



[TOP](#)



**Pandas International is non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Giant Panda.**

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