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PANDAS
INTERNATIONAL

January 2010 eNews

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Now Accepting Reservations for
Pandas International's 10th Anniversary Celebration
A Black and White Extravaganza
on February 20, 2010
at The Wildlife Experience
10035 S. Peoria St., Parker, CO 80134

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Have more questions?

Contact us at info@pandasinternational.org or call 303-933-2365.

A Note from Suzanne

Friends,

As another year has come to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Pandas International. Because of the generous donations of our members, the Panda Center has received life saving medicines and formula, state of the art medical equipment and funding for the daunting task of replanting the bamboo lost in the earthquake of 2008.

The Panda Center staff, Pandas International staff and I are proud and thankful for these great achievements but now look to the future. We need to build on these accomplishments and continue to improve and protect the lives of the pandas at the Center and in the wild.

We are now looking to purchase an ultrasound machine to help with the success rate of Artificial Insemination and monitor the growth and health of the unborn cubs. We will need to continue to raise money for the bamboo reforestation efforts. We will continue to be a vital resource for providing the daily clinical supplies necessary for the care and treatment of pandas injured in the wild and those under the care of the Panda Center.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a great 2010 and join us in our efforts to save the giant panda from extinction.

Suzanne

Tai Shan's Days at the National Zoo are coming to an end

Since his debut Dec. 8, 2005, Tai Shan has been a superstar, drawing millions of visitors to the Northwest Washington zoo, and tens of millions of fans to the panda cams on the zoo's Web site.

D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) once called Tai Shan Washington's most important citizen. The bear has been on wallpaper and the cover of magazines. He has been the subject of a documentary, the model for zoo merchandise and personal tattoos, and the



inspiration for a fan club, Pandas Unlimited.

[Read the full story >>](#)

Tai Shan still continues to amuse!



Photo by Pandas International member, Amanda Osborne catching Tai Shan enjoying the sun. Amanda has donated this wonderful portrait for our Black and White Extravaganza Silent Auction. Can't make the event? We can have an auction monitor do your bidding for you! Please check out all the wonderful items that are beginning to come in on our website and contact us with any questions.

[See Tai Shan's antics >>](#)

Tai Shan, beloved giant panda, leaving for China

He will enter breeding program to help panda conservation

December 25, 2009 Cathy Sunshine

Tai Shan, the first surviving giant panda cub born at the **National Zoo** in Washington, DC, will leave the United States for China sometime in early 2010.

Now four and a half years old, he is a young adult and nearly ready to breed. He will enter a conservation program at a reserve in China, where Chinese scientists are working to increase the population of giant pandas, an endangered species.

Everyone is sad to see him go. But all giant pandas in U.S. zoos are on loan from China. When Tai Shan was born, the agreement with the Chinese government called for him to return to China after his second birthday. The Chinese government granted two extensions, allowing him to remain in the United States for an additional two and a half years.

While National Zoo staff will miss Tai Shan, they are pleased that he will contribute to efforts to save the giant pandas from extinction. "We're proud to send off a healthy panda to be part of China's breeding program," the Zoo says on its website.

National Zoo staff have long known that Tai Shan would return to China one day, so they have prepared him for the trip. Tai Shan is going to the Bifengxia Panda Base in Ya'an, Sichuan, China, run by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda.

[Read full story >>](#)

Elsewhere in the US...

Zoo hoping 2010 is year of panda officials to monitor Ya Ya for possible March birth

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL FILES

Memphis Zoo officials are hoping for a new addition to the panda exhibit sometime around March. Ya Ya was inseminated around Thanksgiving; gestation takes 120 days.

Pandas become sexually mature at about age 5 or 6, putting Ya Ya at the "perfect stage" for conceiving a baby, Dr. Andy Kouba, the zoo's director of conservation and research said.

"What we've seen is a much stronger hormone profile that looks more like a reproductively mature animal," he said. "She's now at the peak of her reproductive age."

Ya Ya and Le Le came to the Memphis Zoo in 2003 as part of the species conservation plan, on loan for 10 years from the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens at a cost of \$1.3 million a year. Ya Ya will remain on display and will be monitored as the zoo staff looks forward to the possibility of a new baby.

"It would be a wonder for the zoo," Kouba said.



[Read full story >>](#)

News from China

Pandas Headed to Shanghai for 2010 Expo

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: January 4, 2010

BEIJING (AP) — Ten giant panda cubs, all born after the deadly earthquake that hit China's Sichuan province in 2008, were on their way Tuesday to Shanghai to go on display during this year's World Expo, a zoo official said.

Six female and four male pandas from the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve Center in Sichuan were to arrive Tuesday evening to spend six months at the Shanghai Zoo and then six months at the Shanghai Wildlife Zoo, said a spokeswoman for the Shanghai Zoo. Like many Chinese officials, she would give only her surname, Tan.

All 10 of the pandas were born after a massive earthquake struck Sichuan in May 2008, showing that the breeding process is back on track after the reserve was nearly destroyed. The quake killed or left missing nearly 90,000 people.

[Read full story >>](#)

From *Novia of the Panda Club* we have learned the following pandas will have the honor to represent Wolong in Shanghai: Ping Ping, An An, Yun Yun, You You, Han Yuan, Zhuang Mei, Wu Yang, Ao Yun, Min Min, and A Ling.

Olympic pandas meet fans in SW

China's Guilin

2010-01-02 *Xinhua English*

Giant pandas Feng Yi and Mei Xin who were displayed in Beijing during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games rest on a tree in Guilin Zoo of Guilin City, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Jan. 2, 2010. Two giant pandas met tourists for the first time since they arrived at Guilin Zoo on Saturday.

[To see more shots of the twosome >>](#)

[To see video of their first morning outing >>](#)



Pandas to Macao may come from Wolong

By Huang Zhiling in Chengdu and Zhang Jin in Macao (Chinadaily.com.cn)

The pair of giant pandas – the central government's gift to mark the 10th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland – are likely to be selected from Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan, the reserve's chief said.

"There is a 60 percent chance that the pandas to Macao are from our reserve," Zhang Heming told China Daily on Sunday. The reserve, the largest Panda breeding base in the world, has more than 60 white and black bears.

Hong Kong's four pandas – An An, Jia Jia, Ying Ying, and Le Le – are all from the reserve, which also sent another pair – Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan - to Taiwan last year.

Zhang said Macao now lack the facilities needed to keep the bears, but it is easy to build them under the instruction of panda experts.

[Read full story >>](#)

[For related story >>](#)

China builds one more panda breeding base, expecting eight more cubs a year

www.chinaview.cn

XI'AN, Dec. 18 (Xinhua) — China began to build a fourth giant panda breeding base in northwestern Shaanxi Province Friday, which is expected to add at least eight cubs to the population of the endangered species a year.

With an investment of 69.54 million yuan (10.2 million U.S. dollars), the Qinling giant panda breeding base will cover 287 hectares, according to Zhang Shenian, head of the provincial forestry department.

[Read full story >>](#)

Chinese pandas woo half a million to Taiwan zoo

December 20, 2009

A pair of Chinese pandas have helped a Taiwan zoo attract an extra half million visitors since their arrival from the mainland last year, a report said Sunday. The zoo is planning to celebrate the

pandas' one-year anniversary in Taiwan next week, zoo director Jason Yeh said.

Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, a gift from China, moved to the Taipei Zoo on December 23, 2008, triggering a massive panda-mania after the public was allowed the first glimpse of them in January, said local radio station BCC.

In 2009, ticket sales at the zoo totaled 3.7 million, up from 3.2 million last year, the report quoted zoo director Jason Yeh as saying, attributing the increase to the star animals.

[Read full story >>](#)

And other news

Panda value not black and white

FARRIN FOSTER
December 19, 2009

Exotic and cute Wang Wang and Funi have become a local obsession. The State Government even released a panda-themed birth certificate this week.

The animals are not just here for sentimental value, though. They are expected to have serious economic worth. Zoos SA, which runs the Adelaide Zoo, says the pair will bring in \$632 million of benefits to the state in the next 10 years.

"We are expecting huge numbers of Australian visitors, the vast majority of whom will have never seen a live panda," said Zoos SA CEO Chris West.

[Read full story >>](#)

Giant panda genome unveiled DNA clues suggest little inbreeding, surprise on the bamboo diet



What's black and white and read all over? The giant panda genome. All 2.4 billion DNA base pairs of a 3-year-old female panda named Jing Jing have been cataloged, researchers report online December 13 in *Nature*. The information will help researchers understand panda traits such as finicky diets. A thorough understanding of panda genetics may aid conservation efforts for the endangered bear.

Surprisingly, the panda genome turned up no signs of inbreeding. Jing Jing's two copies of DNA in each of her cells differed in many places, demonstrating a surprisingly high rate of heterozygosity. That finding suggests that the decline of the panda population has not been caused by inbreeding,

It turns out that pandas have mutations in two copies of a taste gene called T1R1, which encodes a protein that senses the savory taste of meats, cheeses, broths and other high-protein foods. These mutations may have robbed pandas of the ability to taste meat, pushing them toward their bamboo diet, the researchers suggest.

[Read full story >>](#)

Pandas “Chirp” to get pregnant

By Jody Bourton
Earth News Reporter

Add photo: Females chirp with photo credit: Lynn Stone NPL

For female giant pandas who can only conceive on a few days once a year, being able to say "when" is vital. Now a report reveals that female giant pandas use chirp calls to inform male pandas exactly how fertile they are.

The discovery suggests that panda vocal signals are more important than thought, and will aid conservation of the endangered animal, scientists say.

The researchers from the US and China published their research in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. During their short breeding season, female giant pandas (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) make high pitched calls that are thought to solicit male attention.

Given the brief window of opportunity for mating, selection should favor female giant pandas who are able to advertise their fertility and for males who accurately read the female calls. However, the information content and detailed function of the 'chirp' and 'bleat' vocalizations has remained a mystery.



Lynn Stone NPL

[To learn more about this important finding >>](#)

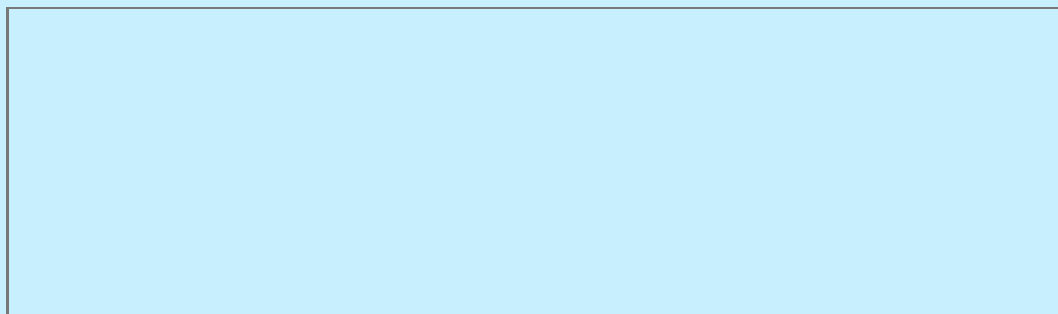
News from Our Members

Dear Suzanne,

HOLY COW! They let me into vet school! I am proud to announce that I have been accepted into Colorado State University's Professional Veterinary Medicine Program, Class of 2014. I promised myself a long time ago that if I got accepted to vet school, **I would do something outlandish.** To convince myself that crazy dreams really are possible, and to demonstrate my profound gratitude at being given the opportunity to go to vet school, I decided to do something that seemed impossible on behalf of someone else.

Thus, the Holy Cow Project was born. **My goal is to raise \$1,000 for each of seven animal-related charities**, Pandas International being one! by March 11, 2010 (my 36th birthday). Please visit: www.holycowproject.org and check it out!

LaShelle





Alexa of MA has been a year round fundraiser for the benefit of the Pandas that she loves so much. Alexa has spent hours hosting lemonade stands in warm weather and hot cocoa stands in the cold weather. With the support of her friends, family and school, she was able to raise \$100! She has done school projects on the Giant Panda raising awareness of the challenges that the pandas are facing and everyone at Pandas International wants to recognize Alexa as a true Panda Protector and send her our most sincere thanks.

Well done, Alexa!

Also making the news...

Way to Go: Writer Samantha Lao of Dix Hills

www.newsday.com

January 4, 2010

Samantha Lao, a fourth-grader at Chestnut Hill Elementary School in Dix Hills, has combined the two things she loves most: pandas and writing.

In September, Samantha self-published a children's book, "The Scared Panda," that she wrote in a writing class she took at the Art League of Long Island.

A portion of the book's profits will benefit Pandas International.

How International is Pandas International?

Pandas International has members from the following countries:

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bermuda
Brazil

Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kingdom of Cambodia

Portugal
Qatar
Scotland
Singapore
South Africa

Canada
China
Columbia
Croatia
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Hong Kong

Korea
Malaysia
Mexico
Monaco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Northern Ireland
Norway
Philippines

South Korea
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom and United States of America.

That's 42 and counting!!

[TOP](#)



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

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