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June 2010 eNews

*Some original material reprinted by Pandas International's Newsletter is used without editing for accepted English usage.*

## Letters of Thank You from the Panda Center

Suzanne,

This week we went back to the Wolong Reserve and rescued a wild female panda. It appears that she was suffering from an alimentary canal (digestive tract) disorder and anemia and she is now being treated at the Bifengxia base. We expect her to make a full recovery in 1 to 2 weeks. When she has recovered, she will be released back into the Wolong Reserve.



Today while I was on duty, Dr. Deng and I did an ultrasound exam and used the new machine, here are some pictures for you to share.

Thank you very much!

*Dr. Wang Chengdong*

Dear Suzanne:

Dr. Katherine Feng have brought anesthetic drugs (3 bottles of ketamine with 200mg/ml x 50cc, 20 bottles of ketamine with 100mg/ml x 10cc, 6 bottles of isoflurane x 250cc) to us yesterday. Thank you.

Drs. Wang and Deng brought back the ultrasound machine and the powdered milk sealer and said they are very good.

Thank you and Pandas Unlimited very much.

All of us and the pandas here are well; about 10 female pandas who had given birth last year are now in estrus, so we still do the breeding works now.

*Tang Chunxiang*

## Thank you for all the great reviews during the 2010 Green Choice Campaign

Supporters around the country have spoken up about why they support

green nonprofits! In the 2010 Green Choice Campaign nearly 2,700 reviews were posted about 262 environmental nonprofit organizations and Pandas International came in the Top 20!

"We are gratified to be able to honor so many great organizations working on the environment," said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits. "They are very deserving of our attention and support for the great work they are doing on behalf of all of us."



The organizations reviewed cover a wide variety of green issues, such as working to preserve habitats and endangered species, fighting air and water pollution, organizing against the destruction of rainforests, and exploring new ways to create a sustainable future.

**[The full list of Top-Rated Green Nonprofits is available here >>](#)**

Congratulations also to the 10 winners of the GuideStar Green Giveaway: The Chewonki Foundation, Ellicott Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Grist Magazine, Heritage Conservancy, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Newton Marasco Foundation, North Country Conservancy, Seacology, and Valley of the Kings Sanctuary and Retreat!

It was wonderful hearing from our members and we will strive to meet or exceed your expectations in the future.

## **Around the US**

### **San Diego Zoo**

## **Now that you're 9**



Nine-month-old giant panda Yun-Zi was in a playful mood Monday morning at the San Diego Zoo.

The cub and his mother, Bai Yun, were both given lots of new toys, all donated by their online fan club, who are regular watchers of the Zoo's Panda-Cam. Zookeepers said the toys -- hard-plastic disks, donuts, balls and cylinders -- keep the pandas physically and mentally stimulated, which helps their growth and development.

**[Full story >>](#)**

**[Related video >>](#)**

## **Zhen Zhen: Great Listener**

*May 26, 2010 by Megan Owen*

Like her big sister Su Lin, Zhen Zhen is participating in the San Diego Zoo's Giant Panda Hearing Study. Zhen Zhen is the youngest bear to be included in this research program and will provide us with new information regarding differences between the hearing sensitivity of young bears and that of adult bears. She has also been a remarkable example of how a young bear can learn a fairly complex task, and learn it fast!

Part of our study requires that the bear hold still, in a consistent location, until a tone is played. Nothing more is asked of the bear: just sit still and listen! Although this might not seem like it is much to ask, any of you out there with children will understand how challenging it is for a young and playful animal to just sit still, much less sit still AND listen. But Zhen Zhen, it turns out, is a great listener. Panda keepers and our research staff cannot help but smile as we watch Zhen Zhen during the hearing sessions, holding still with seemingly relaxed and steady concentration. She is getting it and is proving to be the best in her family at holding still and waiting for a tone.

[Complete blog >>](#)

## Will Any Pandas Stay Here?

*By Emily Leaman  
Tuesday, May 04, 2010*

Tai Shan is back in China, settling into Villa #1 at the Bifengxia Panda Base in Ya'an in Szechuan province, and now the clock's ticking for the National Zoo's other giant pandas, Mei Xiang and Tian Tian. Their ten-year "rental" contracts run out in December, meaning that the zoo is gearing up for negotiations.

"Ideally we'll have made progress by summer, which will determine exactly what happens to our panda program," says Dennis Kelly, the National Zoo's new director. Kelly has experience with pandas: The FedEx plane carrying Tai Shan back to China also carried a panda cub from Atlanta, where Kelly had been head of the zoo.

National Zoo officials hope to secure a five-to-ten-year extension for its current panda pair; it now pays about \$1 million a year to China to "rent" the pandas.

China's a tough negotiator, knowing that the bears are huge draws for US zoos. Could Washington end up pandaless? "We're confident giant pandas will always reside at the National Zoo," says Don Moore, associate director of animal-care sciences.

[Full story >>](#)

## In China

### Pandapring to their every whim

*Longevity Network*

SHANGHAI — Many people will think that Yang Jie has the dream job.

"Isn't handling giant pandas one of the best jobs in the world?" asked Xu Yang, an 8-year-old primary school student, when he watched 10 panda cubs at the Shanghai Zoo on a Saturday morning in May.

Yang works in different cities whenever pandas need him on their tours outside the center. But the latest trip to Shanghai, as part of Expo 2010 Shanghai, is a little bit different for Yang and his three colleagues.



"The panda cubs are young and sensitive to changes. Also, 10 pandas make a large group. It requires more effort and patience to make sure they are safe and sound," Yang said.

[Read full interview with Yang >>](#)

## Kids say the darndest things about the Shanghai Pandas and it's all on video!

[Click here for video >>](#)

## Hope for Wild Pandas

China's government is moving to boost the country's smallest and most isolated population of giant pandas, after scientists warned that the animals could soon disappear.

Giant pandas are highly endangered, particularly in the Xiaoxiangling Mountains on the Tibetan plateau's eastern edge. When researchers led by ecologist Wei Fuwen of the Chinese Academy of Science's Institute of Zoology in Beijing screened DNA from 142 droppings collected from the area, they traced the scat to just 32 individuals.

Genetic analysis showed that the pandas' numbers had plummeted about 250 years ago, a time when Qing dynasty policies were encouraging farmers to settle the mountains. The booming human population's need for land and firewood whittled away the pandas' forest habitat by about 90% to two patches, split by a national highway, totaling 800 square km.

[Full story >>](#)

## Giant pandas' new colony in SW China

*Xinhua*  
May 8, 2010

CHENGDU — Zoologists are investigating the possibility the endangered giant panda has expanded its habitat in southwest China. Residents at a remote village in Sichuan Province have reported traces of the bears in a mountainous area where they were previously unknown, provincial reserve authorities said Friday.

"Giant pandas appear to have been active in Sichuan's Dahau Township for more than two months. The area may be a new habitat for them," Luo Jian, an official with Shengquozhuang Provincial Giant Panda Reserve in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, said.

A resident from Dahua Village, Dahua Township, gave samples of animal excrement he discovered to the Shengquozhuang Reserve for testing on April 30.

Tests revealed it came from a healthy giant panda. Sichuan University will perform further tests on the sample.

Giant pandas have not lived in Dahua Township for at least two decades, villagers said.

[Full story >>](#)



## MOP80 million for pandas' new home

May 31, 2010



The male giant panda Shu Xiang and the female one Qi Miao have been selected to settle in Macau, the Forestry Administration of China announced on Saturday in Sichuan.

Shu Xiang, pedigree number 717, and Qi Miao ( 'Wonderful' in Chinese), pedigree number 710, are from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Florinda Chan said construction of the 3,000 square-metre panda pavilion in Seac Pai Van, which costs MOP80

million, has already started and is expected to be completed in September.

In addition, the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau will launch a giant panda website on June 1, and then a naming contest and promotional campaign on June 8.

Shu Xiang was born on August 4, 2008 and weighs 58 kilograms at present. Qi Miao was born on July 26, 2008 and now weights 48 kilograms.

The pair will make their way to a new home in Macau within this year.

[Full story >>](#)

## Ueno Zoo to get two pandas next year

[Full story >>](#)

## Thai-Born Panda Linping Celebrates Her First Birthday

May 27 (Bernama)

The first panda born in Thailand, Linping, celebrated her first birthday on Wednesday, Thai News Agency (TNA) reported.

The day was celebrated with about a hundred fans at Chiang Mai Zoo, where her presence has brought more than Bt20 million (US\$600,000) to the northern Thai zoo.

According to TNA Linping's birth, and the story of her development until now, is a highlight of the celebrations, which are being held at Chiang Mai Zoo until May 30. A 95-pound birthday cake was created to mark the occasion.

[Full story >>](#)

[Video of Lin Ping and Lin Hui >>](#)

## Singapore Zoo preps for China pandas

By Channel NewsAsia's China Correspondent Glenda Chong | Posted: 17 May 2010

SICHUAN — Singapore is preparing to

welcome two pandas from China in August next year.

On loan for a 10-year period, they will go on display at the River Safari attraction at the Singapore Zoo.

Wildlife Reserves Singapore, which owns the attraction, also intends to start a breeding programme of the endangered species.

Two-year-old Hu Bao is playful and affectionate, while three-year-old Wujie is strong and stable.

They are the two panda cubs that will be making Singapore home next year.

Currently staying at Bifengxia Panda Base, zoo keepers are preparing them for their move.

"They are very healthy and in excellent condition. Both are lively and vigorous. Our main goal now is to ensure they grow healthier. This is a critical period for their growth and development as they are in their adolescence," said Le De Sheng, deputy director of the National Nature Reserve Wuolong in Sichuan Province.



[Full story >>](#)

## Make 2010 the year of your great, personal Panda Adventure!

We are excited to have the opportunity to share a great panda adventure with our Pandas International members. Kim's World Travel and Access China Tours have put together two fantastic tours exploring the wonders of China with a special stop at the Bifengxia Panda Center.

Each guided tour will take you on a journey from Beijing to Bifengxia to Shanghai. You will find yourself immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences. This adventure offers the rare opportunity to interact with giant pandas, a truly unforgettable experience. Suzanne Braden, Director of Pandas International, will meet both tours at the Center to meet both tours and share her experiences over the last ten years and discuss conservation efforts for the future of this amazing animal.

At every turn you will see the results of your generous donations. A new year of cubs will be at the Center's Nursery for viewing, the 2009 cubs will be in kindergarten providing hours of entertainment and Tai Shan will be completely settled into his new home on Leopard Mountain and available for you to watch, photograph and share "Tai Time" with fellow fans.

**There are still a few spaces left, so book your trip now!**  
Follow the links below to see specific dates and itineraries.

[Kim's World Travel](#)

[Access China Tours](#)

*\*Pandas International cannot be held responsible for any contracts or obligations, implied, verbal or written, made by Kim's World Travel or Access China Tours or their representatives. All changes to the itinerary, accommodations, and costs are the sole responsibility of these tour companies and individuals doing business with them.*

## Pandas International Partners

Second Life hosted "The Great Panda Hunt," an event that raised \$100 for Pandas International. During this treasure hunt, there were 100 tiny pandas hidden around Second Life. Each one had a clue to the next, and many of the locations had items for sale.

[Check out all the details >>](#)

Thank you to all who participated in The Great Panda Hunt

## Coming Soon!

Pandas International will be unveiling our latest shirt just in time for Father's Day! Look for our beautiful black polo with our logo tastefully embroidered on the left chest.

[Until then, check out some great bargains in our Odds & Ends section of Gifts & Gear >>](#)

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