



Pandas International March 2008 Newsletter

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Happy Chinese New Year – Gong Xi Fa Cai The Year of the Rat

Make a Chinese New Years resolution to help the pandas:



- Adopt a panda
- Renew your panda adoption
- Sign up for monthly donations
- Tell a friend about Pandas International
- Check with your employer regarding your payroll deduction programs.
- Attend our dinner or host your own dinner to support Pandas International and purchase milk formula for Wolong

[Click here to make your dinner reservations](#)

[Click here to sign up for monthly donations](#)

Wrap Up of 2007

Letter from Suzanne Braden, Director of Pandas International

Pandas International has just completed another successful year. Our efforts and the donations of our generous sponsors and dedicated members have greatly assisted in the breeding, births, and survival of healthy cubs at Wolong.

The Wolong breeding program had 12 litters, 20 cubs born of which 16 survived. Wolong's official count includes the cubs born in San Diego, Japan and Austria as the pandas are from Wolong and the cubs will return to Wolong when they are two years of age. Currently there are only seven at European zoos - five in Vienna and two in the Spanish capital.

It was obvious that they regard Pandas International as vitally important to their goals of maintaining and expanding their research, population, reproduction and reintroduction programs. I was particularly impressed with watching the veterinarians perform ultrasound tests on the pandas waiting to give birth.

We felt welcomed and appreciated and were able to develop not only closer working relationships but true friendships with many of the staff



We will have the official names of the 2007 cubs soon.



A major milestone was achieved this year with the birth of the 100th cub to survive under the Wolong program at the Bifengxia Center. Twin females were born on August 6th. When twins are born the mother is capable of only caring for one cub so in the wild only the stronger cub survives. At the panda centers the rejected cub is placed in an incubator and can then survive as well. The two cubs are rotated between the mother so they both get mother's care, but only one at a time. Pandas International arranged for delivery of two state of the art incubators to be shipped to Bifengxia in June of 2007. In August of 2007 they were being used for this very special 100th cub.

members and management there. With your help, we hope we will be able to continue our productive working relationship.

And special thanks to all the students and special young people who used their class projects and their Birthday parties not for an occasion to get more presents but to truly make a difference and help Save the Pandas. Please see two examples in this newsletter.

Accomplishments in 2007

The Wolong Panda Reserve was featured in an article by the outstanding writer James Fallows in the December issue of Atlantic Monthly. Pandas International was mentioned as "The main U.S. based conduit for tax-deductible contributions."

Suzanne Braden, Director of Pandas International was featured in a profile by Gary Massaro in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

Maxine Clark & Matt Oldani of the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation provided Pandas International with a donation to help purchase incubators.

Messengers of the Healing Winds provided a grant to Pandas International for the incubators.

Medical Program & Direct Support of the Panda Reserves

In 2007 Pandas International provided:

- Esbilac Formula**
- Two state-of-the-art Incubators for the breeding program at Bifengxia**
- Fleece blankets for the incubators**
- Numerous orders of rotors (discs) for the VetScan blood chemistry machines, as there were several sick cubs**
- Several boxes of Isoflurine Anesthetic**



I traveled to Bifengxia and Wolong in June of 2007 (at my own expense) and was very pleased with the many improvements at the breeding center. They have been able to improve and enrich most of the enclosures and cages for the adult pandas and kindergarten class of cubs. The staff showed us how much they use and depend on the equipment we have provided and emphasized how much each item has helped improve the diagnosis and timing of treatment for the animals.

- New sensors for the Nellcor blood oxygen monitors
- Laryngoscopes
- Stethoscopes
- Electronic thermometer with disposable covers
- Large quantities of basic supplies such as worming paste, syringes, IV catheters and nipples for baby bottles

In addition, the money from panda adoptions provided direct funds for the on going care at Wolong. Adoptions through Pandas International are world wide including the US, Australia, Malaysia, and the UK.

Education Program

During 2007 we continued to answer emails and letters from students and helped many students with reports on Pandas. Pandas International distributed education kits to classrooms across the U.S. plus many foreign countries.

Panda International sent monthly email newsletters and periodic print newsletters to inform and educate regarding the pandas.

We feel children are the best ambassadors for the pandas and frequently get the entire family involved. The more students take an interest in endangered species, specifically pandas, the more likely they will care about them as adults and donate to help them continue to thrive and survive.

What is ahead for 2008?

Projects & Goals for 2008

- **Formula for the cubs**

Wolong, Bifengxia and Chengdu all need more milk formula for the cubs of 2006, 2007 and those which will be coming in 2008.

Board member Sherry Lummis has been invaluable in dealing with the regulations of the Chinese Department of Agriculture in order to get the formula to China. As far as we know, there are only two not for profit organizations that can supply items in to China without a VAT and customs taxes: the International Red Cross and Pandas International. So a huge thanks to Sherry Lummis for her tireless work.

- **Reintroduction program**

The panda Xiang Xiang was reintroduced to the wild in April 06. His reintroduction did not go as smoothly as everyone would have hoped, but Wolong has learned a great deal about the process. The beginnings of a reintroduction of a species back into the wild is always difficult with some successes and some setbacks.

Pandas International will continue to support this program as reintroduction is important to the long term survival of the giant pandas. We will have more information in upcoming newsletters.

- **Major Veterinary Equipment**

The greater the ability of the veterinarians to quickly monitor and diagnose problems the quicker treatment can begin. Dr. Li and Dr. Tang have requested a Chemical Analyzer for Blood serum for biochemical results.

One item which would be of great benefit to the panda reserves would be a portable X-Ray machine. Board member Winston Weaver is working on this project.

Depending on the number of expected cubs in 2008, Wolong may need additional Incubators.

- **Medical/ Hospital supplies**

Continue to provide disposable basic supplies as needed by the Veterinarians.

- **Research Program**

We hope this year to begin funding research to study disease prevention and treatment of wild and captive Giant Pandas. Funding a comprehensive research program to study the digestive problems common and potentially fatal to young pandas is a priority.

- **Adoption Program**

Continue to expand the adoption program to provide additional support for the pandas at Wolong.

- **Education Program**

Continue to expand the education program to reach more students & classrooms.

Board member Aleisha Caruso will be developing a wonderful new education video on the Giant Pandas of Wolong.

Give a Gift with Heart —Give a Give that Matters

An alternative gift is a contribution to a charity
that you make in honor of someone
instead of buying them a material present.

Sponsor a Panda

[Click here to sponsor a panda >>](#)

Mei Sheng at Wolong

Mei Sheng has been moved out of quarantine and is adjusting well to life at Wolong and exploring his new enclosure.



Featured Corporate Sponsor

Thanks to Wallace Mann of Mann Partners for a recent donation to Pandas International. Please visit Mann Partners at www.mannpartners.com and <http://www.mannpartners.com/panda-teachings.htm> Mann Partners provides Energy Healing, Panda Teaching, and Sacred Tours.

Travel to China

Kim of Kim's World Travel is making arrangements for another China trip and volunteering at Wolong in October of 2008. If interested please contact Kim at Kim@Kimsworldtravel.com or 303.388.3813

Volunteer at Wolong

It is now possible to volunteer at Wolong, cleaning cages, delivering bamboo, etc. Kim of Kim's World Travel will make arrangements with Wolong for you to volunteer. If interested please contact Kim at Kim@Kimsworldtravel.com or 303.388.3813

Caring Kids

Reagan's 10th Birthday

Looks like Reagan and her friends enjoyed being creative with their panda masks!

Note from Elizabeth's Mom

Hi,

My daughter Elizabeth recently had her 8th birthday. Instead of presents, she wanted to Save the Pandas, so she asked all of her friends to make donations to Pandas International. Her friends' parents wrote out checks and gave cash. Overall, my daughter's party collected over \$300 for Pandas International.

As a mom, I am very proud of my daughter for her decision to help the pandas. As a concerned citizen, I am very pleased to know that excellent organizations like Pandas International exist to help animals.



Elizabeth, the birthday girl, is on the left, and her best friend Melody is on the right.

OTHER ITEMS...



PANDAS INTERNATIONAL RECEIVES "BEST IN AMERICA" SEAL

Pandas International has been selected by Independent Charities of America to receive the "Best in America Seal." We are very proud to have been selected for this seal and will continue to strive to excel in our efforts to save the pandas!

REMEMBER PANDAS INTERNATIONAL IN YOUR WILL!

A Board Member of Pandas International called to let us know they had included Pandas International in their will. A huge thanks for the generous gesture! [Please contact us](#) if you, too, would like to include Pandas International in your will.

MONTHLY DONATIONS — One of the best ways to help the pandas is to sign up for an automatic monthly donation, for as little as \$10.00 a month you can help us with the medical needs of the pandas. [Donate now!](#)

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS — Pandas International has been selected as an approved agency by the Combined Federal Campaign for federal employees in Colorado. If you work for the federal government please consider a payroll deduction for Pandas International.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC) — If you are a Federal Employee and participate in the CFC payroll deduction program please contact us for our CFC number to donate through this program.

DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE A MATCHING PAYROLL DEDUCTION PLAN? Let us know if your company has a payroll deduction or any type of matching donation plan for which Pandas International could apply.

TEACHERS, SCOUT LEADER, SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS — One of our generous sponsors, Pandas Express, the fastest growing Asian cuisine restaurant chain, is teaming with us to offer an educational program to local elementary schools about the endangered pandas in China. *Panda Partners* is an environmental education program that uses age-appropriate materials to bring pandas, conservation issues, and a bit of China to the classroom. We have found most elementary school aged children love the panda and are eager to learn about them. If you are a teacher or know one who might be interested please check the web site at www.pandasinternational.org.

TRAVEL TO CHINA — We have had several requests to travel to China to just the panda reserves. Kim of Kim's World Travel has arrangements with Wolong and Bifengxia and can arrange this type of trip for you. If interested please contact Kim at Kim@Kimsworldtravel.com or 303.388.3813.

VOLUNTEER AT WOLONG — It is now possible to volunteer at Wolong, cleaning cages, delivering bamboo, etc. Kim of Kim's World Travel will make arrangements with Wolong for you to volunteer. If interested please contact Kim at Kim@Kimsworldtravel.com or 303.388.3813.

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