



## Pandas International May 2008 Newsletter

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### Mother's Day is Just Around the Corner – May 11

*We want to devote this newsletter to all mothers!*

One of the major aspects of the China Conservation & Research Center for the Giant Panda – Wolong Nature Reserve is breeding. The current panda population is estimated at only 1590. This number must be increased in order for the species to survive. The Wolong Reserve opened in 1980 and six years later in 1986, the first cub in captivity was born. In those early years very little was known about panda breeding and survival rates were poor. Now in 2008 the survival rate for captive born cubs is about 90%. With artificial insemination and careful monitoring of the Moms births of cubs are definitely up.



Wolong had 16 cubs in 2007, 18 cubs in 2006 and 19 cubs in 2005.(Wolong counts cubs born to pandas on loan from Wolong in various zoos. i.e. cubs born in San Diego and Washington D.C. are included in their count as they will eventually go home to Wolong).

In the spring a first step in breeding is to very carefully monitor females' hormone levels when they come in estrus. Just like humans, prenatal care, blood tests, and ultrasound tests are very important.

Challenges exist when treating the female pandas. In order for the veterinarians to draw blood the pandas are carefully trained to extend their arm and grasp a bar. For this to be successful the panda's personal caretaker must be there and provide a favorite treat such as apples (see photo at top right).



Another important step in monitoring all pregnant Moms is an ultrasound test (see left). The ultrasound helps to determine if a female is pregnant and checks on the health of the baby. For the ultrasound the pandas are trained to enter a large cage with wheels.

Then the pandas are trained to lay on their backs with their paws and most importantly their claws on the bars of the cage. Again their caretaker stays with them the entire time feeding their favorite treat (see right).



The Veterinarian then performs the ultrasound test on the panda (below).



Each panda is a little different; some put up with the test very well and others are not so pleased. This panda (below) was known to be very quick and liked to swipe at the Vets performing the test so an extension was added to the hand piece. And as you can see she was provided with LOTS of snacks to keep her distracted.

Once the Mom is close to delivery she will "den" (at right). In the wild she finds a cave or hollow tree. At Wolong she stays in the corner of her enclosure. At this point she will stop eating so no more tests



can be preformed. Here you can see Hua Mei curled up getting ready. She delivered her 2007 twins a couple days later.

The Moms generally weigh about 165 lbs to 250 lbs. Newborn cubs are TINY and weigh only about 4 ounces. If you can imagine a stick of butter which is pink, that's what a panda cub looks like. The Mom must be very careful with the fragile newborn and tends to keep the cub on her chest most of the time (*right*).



But like all babies, pandas grow and change fast. They get their black and white color at about 5 to 7 weeks.



**Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers  
and all who will become Moms in 2008!**

**“Love the whole world as a mother loves her only child”—  
Buddha**

**Adopt a panda for Mom  
and name it after her >>**



## Spring Cleaning for Earth Day

*Earth Day is April 22nd*

how about celebrating by cleaning out unused items and recycling them at a yard sale or garage sale with the proceeds going to help Save the Pandas.

Unused items get recycled and we can buy more milk for the Pandas. Pandas International will provide a poster and some photos for signs.

To request poster contact [info@pandasinternational.org](mailto:info@pandasinternational.org)

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

In case you missed the article by James Fallows in the *Atlantic* you can read it online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200712/pandas> and <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200712/pandas-sidebar>

## Give a Gift for Mother's Day That Will Make a Difference!

**Great Gifts for Mom and Help the Pandas, Too!**

**Go Green for Mothers Day – *literally* – with our NEW Bamboo Tee!**

- Screened bamboo on green tee.
- Fabric is made from fast growing bamboo with a silky feel.
- Slightly tapered for a more slender fit and cap sleeves
- *Like a fine jersey it needs a little special care:* for best results, wash in cold water and dry flat.

[Click here to order one for Mom](#)

**Other gift ideas (click to see or purchase each one):**

- [Black velvet and silk scarves](#)
- [Other tee shirts](#)
- [The Wisdom of Pandas Hardback Book](#)
- [Pandas Book](#)





- [Plush panda stuffed animals](#)
- [Jewelry, gifts and art](#)
- [Panda note cards](#)

[Sponsor a panda for Mom](#)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Kim@Kimsworldtravel.com) or 303.388.3813.

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