



## Pandas International March 2007 Newsletter

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**May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon the pandas.**

We are a little behind on our newsletter, so we will be doing a couple a month for the next few months.

This newsletter will focus on an 2006 year-end wrapup and our goals for 2007.

### Letter from Mr. Zhang – Director of China Conservation and Research Center

Dear Ms. Braden and Pandas International:

We heartily appreciate you and Pandas International for your great efforts and contribution to the giant panda's conservation! All that you provide greatly helps to protect the pandas of world, with your hardworking, arduous rushing around and trying your best to raise funds. You donated many equipment and articles on conservation, scientific research and medical treatment to help us to resolve many troubles such as: the whole blood analyzer machine helps us to provide clinical analyzing results on time for rescuing pandas, the blow gun air system provides us lots of convenience for wild animal immobilization, the special infant powdered milk—Esbilac milk establishes a firm base for our many baby pandas to survive every year. It is with your great help that we can do our jobs well and make our panda population increase from an initial 10 pandas in 1991 to 120 pandas now. We have successfully bred pandas for a total of 73 litters with 109 babies, and survival of 94 cubs. Every panda's born and growth are agglomerated your painstaking efforts and solitudes.

Sincerely on behalf of all staff of China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda and best regards,

Mr. Zhang

Director: China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda, Wolong Nature Reserve

## Letter from Karen Rose, Chair of Pandas International

Pandas International has just completed its most successful year. Our efforts and the donations of our generous sponsors and dedicated members have greatly assisted in the breeding, births, and survival of 18 healthy cubs at Wolong. Besides the record number of cubs, Pandas International received the largest monetary and in-kind donations since its founding. We were able to provide the dedicated staff at Wolong with many of the items they both needed and wanted. Additionally, we assumed the responsibility of purchasing and shipping the special milk supplement required for the growing cubs.

Suzanne and I traveled to Wolong in October (at our own expense) and are 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 adults 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.



It was obvious that they regard Pandas International as vitally important to their goals of maintaining and expanding their research, population, and reintroduction programs.

We felt welcomed and appreciated and were able to develop not only closer working relationships but true friendships with many of the staff members and management there. With your help, we hope we will be able to continue our productive working relationship.

## Accomplishments in 2006

## Medical Program & Direct Support of the Panda Reserves

The China Conservation & Research Center for the Giant Panda at Wolong, the premier breeding program in the world, supported by Pandas International, had two major requests for 2006 formula for the cubs and a Whole Blood Analyzer.

So Pandas International purchased and delivered the Medonic Automated Veterinary Blood Cell Analyzer shown here. Dr Wang is reviewing the results of blood work on a sick panda.



This equipment allows the Veterinarians to immediately diagnose problems and therefore treat sick pandas instantly.

Dr. Tang and Dr. Wang acknowledged this has dramatically increased their capacity to care for the pandas.



The second request was for special formula for the cubs being raised in the nursery. The nursery at Wolong raises cubs when a first time mother is unable to raise the cub or when twins are born, since the mother will only care for one cub. Like all babies, they need milk similar to “mom’s” in order to thrive.

Dr. Mark Edwards, an animal nutritionist currently at the Washington D. C. Smithsonian Zoo, developed a special formula for the pandas, which is a combination of human powdered baby formula and Esbilac puppy formula. This meets the cubs’ nutritional needs for many months –from tiny bottles to bowlfuls.

Wolong needed hundred 100 kg (220 pound) bags of the Esbilac Powder for the cubs born in 2006.

Other items provided in 2006 included: 2 Oximeters to measure oxygen and companion printers to record the results; rotors for the two blood chemistry machines that had previously been; agents and reagents used in artificial insemination; plus large quantities of basic supplies such as worming paste, syringes, and IV catheters.

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.

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## Education Program

During 2006 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 interest in endangered species, specifically pandas, they more likely they will care about them as adults and donate to help them continue to thrive and survive.



## What's ahead for 2007?

### *Projects & Goals for 2007 include:*

#### Formula for the cubs

Wolong needs even more milk formula for the cubs of 2005, 2006 and we hope lots in 2007.

Due to recent changes in import regulations, Pandas International will have to establish new relations with the Chinese Department of Agriculture in order provide the formula. Board member Sherry Lummis will be leading this effort.

#### 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.

Depending on the number of expected cubs in 2007, Wolong may need additional Incubators.

#### Medical/ Hospital supplies

Provide a new fiber optic laryngoscope set and a new electronic thermometer.

Continue to provide 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

Pandas International will continue to support this program as reintroduction is important to the long term survival of the giant pandas. Pandas International plans to provide at least 3 new radio collars equipped with both GPS location navigation and radio frequencies. We will also need to provide the GPS monitoring service for the GPS location.

#### Major Veterinary Equipment

The greater the ability of the veterinarians to quickly monitor and diagnosis 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.

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.

### Summary from the Director

My thanks to each and every one of you who made 2006 a wonderful year for Pandas International. We accomplished a great deal but there is still much more to do: continue our fundraising efforts, increase our ability to provide critical medical and veterinary supplies for Wolong, and, expand our education outreach. With your continuing support and commitment and, whenever and wherever possible, spreading the word about Pandas International, I'm confident our achievements in 2007 will be even more wonderful than 2006.

Thank you again.

Suzanne Braden  
Director, Pandas International

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