



Smithsonian  
*National Zoological Park*  
*Conservation Biology Institute*

## **Giant Panda Conservation Program and Cub Backgrounder**

### **Giant Panda Breeding and Conservation Program**

The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute is a leader in giant panda conservation. Ever since these charismatic bears arrived at the Zoo in 1972, animal care staff and scientists have studied giant panda biology, behavior, breeding, reproduction and disease. These experts are also leading ecology studies in giant pandas' native habitat. The Zoo's giant panda team works closely with colleagues in China to advance conservation efforts around the world and save giant pandas in the wild.

- Additional resources:
  - [In-depth background](#) on the Zoo's giant panda conservation program.
  - [Brief history and timeline](#) of the Zoo's giant panda program.

### **Giant Panda Cub: Xiao Qi Ji (SHIAU-chi-ji)**

- **Cub Date of Birth:** August 21, 2020 at 6:35 p.m.
- **Cub Sex:** Male
- Translation of Xiao Qi Ji's Name: Little miracle
- **Approximate weight at birth:** At birth, a giant panda cub is helpless, and it takes considerable effort on the mother's part to raise it. A newborn cub weighs 3-5 ounces and is about the size of a stick of butter. Pink, hairless, and blind, the cub is 1/900th the size of its mother. Except for a marsupial, such as a kangaroo or opossum, a giant panda baby is the smallest mammal newborn relative to its mother's size.
- **First cub weight captured (3 weeks old):** 634.8 grams (just under 1.5 lbs.)
- **Weight at 1 month:** 952 grams (just over 2 pounds)
- **Weight at 2 months:** 6.5 pounds (2.95 kilograms)
- **Weight at 3 months:** 10.4 pounds (4.72 kilograms)
- **Weight at 4 months:** 14.5 pounds (6.6 kilograms)

- **Weight at 5 months:** 20.79 pounds (9.45 kilograms)
- **Weight at 6 months:** 27.5 pounds (12.49 kilograms)
- **Weight at 7 months:** 32 pounds (14.57 kilograms)
- **Weight at 8 months:** 41 pounds (18.6 kilograms)
- **Weight at 9 months:** 45 pounds (20.7 kilograms)
- **Weight at 10 months:** 49.72 pounds (22.6 kilograms)
- **Weight at 11 months:** 58.4 pounds (26.5 kilograms)
- **Weight at 12 months:** 60 pounds (27.2 kilograms)

**Mother:** Mei Xiang (may-SHONG)

- **Date of birth:** July 22, 1998
- **Age:** 22 years old
- **Translation of Mei Xiang's name:** beautiful fragrance
- **Significance of Birth:** At 22 years old, Mei Xiang is the oldest giant panda to give birth in the United States and the second oldest documented in the world. This is also the first time a Zoo in the United States has experienced a successful pregnancy and birth via artificial insemination using only frozen semen.

**Father:** Tian Tian (t-YEN t-YEN)

- **Date of birth:** Aug. 27, 1997
- **Age:** 23 years old
- **Translation of Tian Tian's name:** more and more

**Giant Panda Webcam:**

- The Zoo has [five animal webcams](#) that take online visitors behind the scenes.
- The [Giant Panda Cam](#) is the Zoo's most popular webcam.
- More than 3 million people have viewed the Giant Panda Cam since the birth of the cub on Aug. 21.
- Statistics for Aug. 21 (the cub's birth live on the webcam) alone
  - Nearly 200,000 people tuned in
  - ~500,000 pageviews
  - Avg time on page 9:30 minutes