



For Immediate Release

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ZOO ATLANTA PREPARES FOR PANDAMONIUM

Celebration for giant panda family will also be Mei Lan's last American birthday bash

ATLANTA – September 15, 2009 – A black-and-white blowout honoring four of Atlanta's best-known celebrities will also be the final birthday bash on U.S. soil for one of the city's most beloved superstars. On Saturday, September 19, 2009, Zoo Atlanta hosts *Pandamonium*, a family-sized extravaganza honoring the August and September birthdays of giant panda cub Xi Lan, 1; Mei Lan, 3; and Lun Lun and Yang Yang, both 12.

Friends around the world are invited to enjoy panda-centric activities, refreshments, crafts and special keeper talks while the guests of honor enjoy birthday surprises. Guests who arrive between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. can purchase \$1 raffle tickets for a chance at one of the Zoo's rarest and most coveted opportunities: an exclusive behind-the-scenes opportunity to meet one of the giant pandas. Raffle proceeds benefit the Give So They Stay campaign to keep giant pandas in Atlanta.

Fans who have followed the world-famous Mei Lan since her birth on September 6, 2006 are encouraged to attend, as the September 19 event will be her last American birthday party. The 3-year-old female has been recommended for an early 2010 departure for China, where she will be a new and important contributor to the global captive population of giant pandas. The Give So They Stay campaign, launched on June 17, seeks to ensure that her parents Lun Lun and Yang Yang, and, in turn, their species, continue to have a home in Atlanta.

Pandamonium is free for Zoo Atlanta Members and children under 3; free with general admission. Special activities will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit zooatlanta.org for event details. For news and updates on the Give So They Stay campaign, visit givesothestay.org.

[About Zoo Atlanta](#)

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. The Zoo's newest attraction, Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure, opened in April 2009. The interactive new experience is the largest of its kind in the Southeast. Zoo Atlanta is also the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008. Other highlights include one the nation's largest collection of great apes and a global center of excellence for the care and reproduction of vanishing amphibians and reptiles. Zoo Atlanta is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or go to zooatlanta.org.

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