



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2010

LABOR BEGINS FOR GIANT PANDA LUN LUN

The only cub born in the U.S. in 2010 is on its way

WHO: Zoo Atlanta officials have announced that labor has begun for expectant giant panda mother Lun Lun. The 13-year-old female has been under round-the-clock monitoring since birth watch began on October 18, 2010.

WHAT: The actual time the cub will arrive remains uncertain. Giant panda labor typically lasts seven to eight hours but can be as brief as one to two hours or, on the opposite end of the spectrum, much longer. Lun Lun's labor with her first offspring, Mei Lan, lasted 36 hours and is still the longest giant panda labor ever recorded. By comparison, Lun Lun's second cub, Xi Lan, arrived in just under nine hours.

The cub will be the only giant panda born in the U.S. in 2010 and is the third for Lun Lun and 13-year-old male Yang Yang. Additional updates will be provided as details are available.

The Zoo's giant pandas are watched daily by fans around the world on PandaCam presented by Earthcam. PandaCam streams Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fans are encouraged to stay abreast of all things panda by following Zoo Atlanta on our website and on Twitter, joining the Zoo Atlanta Facebook community, and registering for biweekly *eUpdate* newsletters.

WHERE: Zoo Atlanta
800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30315

CONTACT: Keisha N. Hines, Director of Public Relations and Communications
404.624.5980 – office
404.309.2238 – cell
khines@zooatlanta.org

Simone Griffin, Public Relations Coordinator
404.624.2809
sgriffin@zooatlanta.org

ABOUT:**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, Trader's Alley: Wildlife's Fading Footprints, featuring the debut of two new sun bears, opened in June 2010. Other highlights include the nation's largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans, and a global center of excellence for the care and study of vanishing reptiles and amphibians. Zoo Atlanta is also proud to be one of only four zoos in the U.S. that giant pandas call home. The Zoo 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 visit zooatlanta.org.

##