



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2009

XI LAN TAKES ON THE GREAT OUTDOORS *Giant panda cub ventures outside for the first time today*

WHO: Spring is here, and rumor has it Xi Lan has sprung. Monday morning, March 30, Zoo Atlanta's giant panda cub rolled into his greatest adventure yet – tackling the great outdoors. The Zoo's Animal Management Team decided last week that the precocious cub, 7 months old today, was developmentally ready to explore his outdoor habitat under the experienced eye of his mother Lun Lun.

The early morning scene recalled a similar event in spring 2007, when Xi Lan's older sister, the world-famous Mei Lan, toddled tentatively outside for the first time. Giant panda fans are officially forewarned: Lun Lun's and Yang Yang's firstborn, now 2, was dainty compared with her baby brother, in whose eyes even the most mundane of items merit curiosity and investigation.

Xi Lan, Lun Lun, Mei Lan and papa bear Yang Yang can be seen daily at Zoo Atlanta's Arthur M. Blank Giant Panda Conservation Center. Live streaming video is also available on PandaCam, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New images, videos and cub updates are posted regularly on zooatlanta.org.

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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. Zoo Atlanta is the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008, and the future home of the Southeast's largest parakeet aviary, an immersive experience opening in April 2009. Other highlights include one of the nation's most recognized collections 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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