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Memphis zoo pandas leaving

every giant panda puppy born at an American zoo be sent to a breeding program in China after their fourth birthday. Bei Bei follows the imprints of her sisters Bao Bao, who passed away in 2017, and his brother, Tai Shan, who passed away in 2010 in an attempt to breed more species of giant pandas in their native homeland. Bei Bei is part of our family, Steve Monfort, director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, said in a statement on Friday. Our team took care of him, learned from him, and along with millions loved watching him grow. We are sad that he is leaving, but excited about the contribution he will make to the global giant panda population. A fan-favorite at the zoo, guests have watched Bei Bei in person and through a panda cam grow from a small puppy to a 240-pound bear since his birth on August 22, 2015. To celebrate the first four years of Bei Bei's life in the district, the zoo is hosting a farewell ceremony named Bye Bye, Bei Bei from November 11 to November 18. With less than a month left to go, zookeepers are busy preparing Bei Bei for a 16-hour nonstop flight from Washington to Chengdu. Zoo officials said Friday they will first bei bei accustomed to his travel chest, having him walk through it every day before having him spend short periods of time inside with the door closed. The panda keeper and veterinarian will accompany Bei Bei on a special FedEx B777 aircraft and offer him treats when he's in the crate, from bamboo and apples to boiled sweet potatoes and biscuits. FedEx has experience transporting giant pandas, including successful transfers of older sibling Bei Bei to China and bei Bei's parents to Washington.Giant panda Bei Bei eats his frozen cake to celebrate his 4th birthday at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C., D.C, August 22, 2019.Upon Bei Bei's arrival in Chengdu, his new caregivers will accompany him to his new environment at the Chinese Giant Panda Conservation and Research Center. Keepers at the National Zoo also said they would stay with him until he lived. We know that from the day Bei Bei was born, he will move to China. Smithsonian Zoo spokesman Devin Murphy said at Bei Bei's fourth birthday celebrations on August 22. It's also a really exciting milestone for us, so we want to move to China and become part of the breeding program and eventually be young and hopefully one day some of these young ones will be released into the wild. Bei Bei will join a giant panda breeding program in when she reaches sexual maturity, probably between the ages of 5 and 7.The 7.The Zoo has been working on a breeding program with Chinese scientists since the U.S. received the first pair of pandas as a gift after President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972. It is one of only three U.S. zoos - including Zoo Atlanta and the Memphis Zoo - that have now entered into agreements with China to adopt giant pandas. Earlier this year, the San Diego Zoo sent back the other two giant pandas when their lease with China ended and it was not renewed. Bei Bei's parents, Mei Xing and Tian Tian, are the only breeding panda pair at the National Zoo since 2000. Although the original \$10 million 10-year lease with China to investigate the pair has been extended many times, it is now due to expire on December 7, 2020. It depends entirely on China whether to recall its pandas or not. According to the National Zoo website, about 1,800 giant pandas now live in the wild, while another 300 pandas live in zoos and breeding centers around the world. The International Union for Conservation of Nature changed the status of giant pandas from endangered to vulnerable in 2016, reflecting the return of the species in recent years. Brought to you by Cuteness Jupiterimages/Zdjecia.com/Getty Images Giant panda lovers can visit these fascinating creatures in four zoos in the United States. Zoos have active breeding programs and offspring are born, although sometimes these delicate children will not survive. Other giant pandas are on loan by the Chinese government for a limited time. The number of pandas in captivity in the United States fluctuates. In 2013, there were just over a dozen. Giant pandas are currently living at the National Zoo in Washington.C; Atlanta Zoo in Atlanta, Georgia; San Diego Zoo in San Diego, California; and the Memphis Zoo in Memphis, Tennessee. These zoos participate in the Giant Panda Species Survival Plan, overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The number of giant pandas in captivity in the United States since September 2013 has been 12 adults or adolescent animals and three newborn cubs. Since September 2013, the population of giant pandas at the National Zoo has consisted of Mei Xiang and Tian Tian and their newborn puppy. Lun Lun, Yang Yang and their son Xi Lan live in Zoo Atlanta, as do Poe. Lun Lun gave birth to male twins in July 2013. Bai Yung and Gao Gao live at the San Diego Zoo with their sons Yun Zi and Xiao Liwu. Ya Ya and Le Le live at the Memphis Zoo. Testimonials (5) Photo Credits Jupiterimages/Zdjecia.com/Getty Images Escalating trade tensions between the U.S. and China when asked if giant pandas loaned to U.S. zoos can be recalled to their country. Giant pandas in zoos in the US and other parts of the world are on loan from China, which property over pandas and charges an annual fee for their lease, usually about \$1 million. Every panda born in captivity in the US is also china and must normally be returned to the country between the ages of three and five. Will panda leases be renewed? That's the case for a lone teen panda in the U.S., Bei Bei, who lives at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C Bei Bei last week turned four years old and is expected to travel to China to enter a breeding program in the next few months, according to Today. A more critical question is whether Bei Bei's parents, 21-year-old Mei Xiang and 22-year-old Tian Tian, will stay in D.C. for the forth coming future. The lease on the panda pair is out on December 7, and zoo officials told the Washington Post that they have not yet begun discussions with the Chinese about extending the lease. The National Zoo is one of only three American zoos that have giant pandas. The other two are the Atlanta Zoo and the Memphis Zoo.Earlier this year, the San Diego Zoo sent back the other two giant pandas when their lease with China ended and was not renewed. It's up to China Four-year-old panda Bei Bei celebrates her birthday last week at the National Zoo. He is expected to be sent to China in the coming months. Alastair Pike/AFP) (Photo credit should read ALASTAIR PIKE/AFP/Getty Images When pandas were recalled from San Diego, zoo officials in Atlanta and Memphis said whether their pandas stay or not is up to China.Hayley Murphy, deputy director of Zoo Atlanta, would not reveal details about their current contract with China, but said no changes had been made to it. Zoo Atlanta is very committed to our cooperation with China and the protection of giant pandas. Plans for all giant pandas in the U.S. are ultimately the decisions of our colleagues in China, Murphy told the Atlanta Business Chronicle.Read more: A 24-hour livestream of the National Zoo of giant pandas turned off due to a government shutdown, and people were furious Two pandas in Memphis have four years left on their 10-year loan. We really have a very good relationship with China, and in fact they come and visit us so often to see how pandas do it, said Matt Thompson, zoological director, in an interview with the Memphis Business Journal. But going forward, we won't know 100% sure what the future holds until we get closer to that end of the 10-year contract. Diplomacy Panda First Lady Patricia Nixon (in red) admires pandas in China in 1972. John Dominis/Life Picture Collection via Getty Images China has long used its pands as political tools. The Chinese government sent two pandas to New York's Bronx Zoo in 1941 as a thank you for American help during World War II. When President Nixon and his wife visited China in 1972, Pat Nixon told the Chinese prime minister that he loved pandas, and he said, I'll give you a little bit, according to the zoo's website. months later to. C Washington sent two pandas named Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling. Unlike the pands on the to the USA today that the couple was a gift. These pandas died in the 1990s. It's the end of an era at the San Diego Zoo, as the last two giant pandas will soon leave for the China.In announcement Monday, zoo officials said the panda, Bai Yun, 27 - a device at the zoo for 23 years - and her son, Xiao Liwu, 6, will leave San Diego since a multi-year contract with the Chinese ended. Zoo officials said that sending the pands back was always planned for April and was not prompted by a sudden request from the Chinese government. Iconic black and white bamboo eaters have been constantly present at the zoo since 1996. The last day pandas can be seen at the public is expected to be April 27.How the San Diego Zoo helps open the mystery of panda sex and parenting » With their impending departure, it is unknown if or when new pandas can inhabit the zoo again. Zoo officials are unable to say whether waiting is a matter of months or years. We have high hopes for the return of pandas, but I don't know that we have a fixed date when they can return, said Shawn Dixon, chief operating officer of the San Diego Zoo.There are still pandas at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Zoo Atlanta and Memphis Zoo.In two decades since the first pandas arrived in San Diego, the animals have become laced with the image of the zoo. Their likenesses grace T-shirts and postcards promoting the region, and they had a role in the 2004 Film Anchorman. In the comedy, the San Diego news team chronicled the impending birth of a panda from Panda Watch. While the prospect of a lack of new pands indefinitely may alarm fans, there is a promising sign: The zoo has no plans to cancel the animal exhibition. And several zoo officials are planning a trip to China in the coming months to negotiate in person with the country's panda program leaders. The departure of the pands may sadden the community, Dixon said, but it's time to celebrate. They go home to their country. It really is a celebration of all the work we have done. The San Diego giant panda program has been very successful by most means, producing six cubs and developing techniques currently used around the world to keep panda cubs alive. When the pandas first arrived at the zoo in 1996, the International Union for Conservation of Nature listed the species as endangered. In 20 years, their status has improved to vulnerable. Two decades ago, the population of wild pands was estimated at less than 1,000. According to the World Wildlife Fund, 1,864 pandas lived in the wild in 2014. Another panda at the zoo, 28-year-old Gao Gao, returned to China in October. Gao Gao and Bai Yun produced five cubs together, including Xiao Liwu. All three will return to China and the Center for The Study of the Giant Panda in Dujiangyan. Do not expect much descent - pandas are very lonely and are not expected to interact. Pandas are only native to China, so all pandas in American zoos are on loan from the Chinese government. Even those born on American soil are considered to be chinese property. It is unclear from zoo officials what their negotiating strategy will be with the Chinese, or if any program will be next to include breeding. Young male panda Xiao Liwu was born at the San Diego Zoo. This species is the rarest of all bears and lives among the moist bamboo forests in southwestErn China. Most of the decline in numbers is largely attributed to human intervention, but pandas are also notoriously difficult to reproduce. They combine only one to two days a year, and successful pregnancies are rare. It is not known exactly when the pandas will leave. Bai Yun and her son Xiao Liwu will travel by plane and be led by numerous carers and veterinarians. Bai Yun is expected to hit the centre's retirement wing and Xiao Liwu will eventually be placed in a breeding situation. Zoo officials said saying goodbye to the pandas was bittersweet, but they were proud of everything they had achieved over 23 years. The goal was to prevent the species from extinction. This program could be considered one of several programs that actually prevented the expansion of a key species, said Carmi Penny, director of breeding sciences at the zoo. Despite tensions with the Chinese government and the Trump administration over tariffs, zoo officials say this kind of issue is not filtered to those who work with pandas. Storied panda storyGiant pandas first took San Diego by storm in 1987, when two animals - Basi and Yuan Yuan - remained for 200 days. Pandas were a sensation, attracting more than 2 million visitors, the zoo said. A 1987 article in the San Diego Evening Tribune described their arrival as fanfare usually written for humans because news reporters, television camera men and zoo staff fawned over the couple. The price of a one-day adult ticket at that time was \$8.50 and \$2.50 for children. Now it's \$56 for an adult and \$46 for a child (ages 3 to 11). Pandas did not return until 1996, when Bai Yun and another panda, Shi Shi, arrived at the zoo from the Wolong Nature Reserve in China. Both were supposed to be 12 years old, although Bai Yun stayed 13 years longer. Pandas, in special travel crates, were loaded onto a moving truck and escorted by the California Highway Patrol to the zoo. At first everything was rocky with Shi Shi, who was not interested in mating with Bai Yun. Bai Yun gave birth to her first lady, Hua Mei, in 1999 through artificial insemination. This panda became the first born in the United States who survived and grew into adulthood. In 2003, Gao Gao Gao began a successful pairing with Bai Yun. Mei Sheng's son was born in 2003. Four other cubs followed: Su Lin in 2005, Zhen Zhen in 2007, Yun Zi in 2009 and the last, Xiao Liwu, in 2012.According to an agreement with the Chinese government, most young pandas born in other countries are to return to China when they are about 3 years old. Xiao Liwu, though, now stayed longer than expected, as did Bai Yun, who could remain because of how much success she had in breeding. Xiao Liwu, shown for 7 months, tries to get mom Bai Yun to play in 2013. Bob Wiese, director of natural sciences at the San Diego Zoo, said several of the six cubs went on to have their own children, drawing on a line coming from San Diego. By the time pandas were brought to the United States in 1996, the survival rate for the cubs was 10% to 20%, Wiese said. Now, there is a 95% probability that they will survive, he said, and part of that stems from work done in American zoos. One of these advances comes from a San Diego Zoo nutritionist who has developed a milk formula for the cubs that is now in widespread use. The formula is especially useful if the panda mother does not give her enough milk. The milk that newborn pandas have to survive is much more nutritious than many species and is crucial for survival, making neglect by the mother potentially catastrophic. Xiao Liwu, a star attraction More than 100 people waited in line Friday to see Xiao Liwu on a chilly 64-degree day. The line slowly snaked through the exhibition to the end, where adults and children crowded around the 6-year-old panda enclosure. Xiao Liwu climbed the tree-style area and plopped into one of his favorite seating areas. A ray of sunshine illuminated the top of his head as he leaned over with a bamboo stem. He put the stem in his mouth and took off the outer layers to start the meal. Guests hugged each other to see the pande, though they did not notice. He's there, yelled 6-year-old Brooklyn Putich of Chino when she finally saw the pande for the first time and climbed the railing to get a better look. Families of young children consisted of a crowd, which led to an occasional traffic jam for children. Stephanie Toscano of Tucson, Ariz., said she was in town for a wedding and decided to take her 4-year-old daughter, Adynn, to the zoo. She waited all day for it, Toscano said. She wouldn't stop talking about it. Zoo officials said none of the staff who worked with the pandas would be fired, but would work with other animals. Still, it can be difficult for these workers to say goodbye, especially to Bai Yun, a 23-year-old resident. She was the perfect pande, said Penny, the director of breeding. She was behaviorally stable, very intelligent, very inquisitive, not aggressive. Just nice, good he wasn't on the show for much of Friday, but no one seemed to notice from the content Xiao Liwu put on the show. He got up from his seat, climbed the logs in the enclosure, grabbed another bamboo stem, bent over and began chewing again. Every move has been captured by dozens of smartphones. Molnar and Bradley J. Fikes, who contributed to this report, work for the San Diego Union-Tribune. phillip.molnar@suniontribune.com phillip.molnar@suniontribune.com

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