

Baby panda born in Malaysia zoo makes public debut

May 26 2018



A new baby panda sits on the ground at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Saturday, May 26, 2018. A baby panda born in a Malaysian zoo five months ago has made her first media appearance. The female panda, which has not yet been named, is the second offspring of giant pandas Liang Liang and Xing Xing, both of which are on a 10-year loan to Malaysia since 2014. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

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debut Saturday.

The female, which has not yet been named, is the second offspring of giant pandas Liang Liang and Xing Xing, both of which are on a 10-year loan to Malaysia since 2014.

The first cub, a female called Nuan Nuan born in August 2015, was sent back to China last November as part of a deal with Beijing to return cubs born in captivity at age 2.

Members of the media watched and filmed the cub in an air-conditioned enclosure at the national zoo through a glass shield. Zoologists said the healthy cub weighs 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds) and will face the public later Saturday.

Zoo officials have said the giant panda pair broke the world record for a second baby in four years via natural reproduction. Malaysia's [national zoo](#) has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars on a panda complex including bamboo trees mimicking their natural habitat, after China loaned the cub's parents to mark 40 years of diplomatic relations with Malaysia.

According to WWF, there are 1,864 [giant pandas](#) in the wild, living mainly in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China and subsisting almost entirely on bamboo.

The pair arrived just weeks after a Malaysian plane carrying 239 people, mostly Chinese citizens, disappeared in March 2014 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Chinese media at the time criticized the Malaysian government and Malaysia Airlines over their handling of the tragedy. The jet still hasn't been found.



A zoo worker holds a baby panda at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Saturday, May 26, 2018. The female panda which was born in the zoo five months ago and has not yet been named, made her first media appearance. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)



A zoo worker holds a baby panda at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Saturday, May 26, 2018. The female panda which was born in the zoo five months ago and has not yet been named, made her first media appearance. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)



A new baby panda looks on at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Saturday, May 26, 2018. A baby panda born in a Malaysian zoo five months ago has made her first media appearance. The female panda, which has not yet been named, is the second offspring of giant pandas Liang Liang and Xing Xing, both of which are on a 10-year loan to Malaysia since 2014. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)



A zoo worker plays with a baby panda at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Saturday, May 26, 2018. The female panda which was born in the zoo five months ago and has not yet been named, made her first media appearance. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)



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Media take photographs of a new baby panda at Malaysia Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Saturday, May 26, 2018. A baby panda born in a Malaysian zoo five months ago has made her first media appearance. The female panda, which has not yet been named, is the second offspring of giant pandas Liang Liang and Xing Xing, both of which are on a 10-year loan to Malaysia since 2014. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

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