

# NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK

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July 12, 1971

Mr. Burt Lucido  
2362 Eighteenth Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94116

Dear Mr. Lucido:

Thank you for your note of 6 July concerning giant pandas.

As you may know, several zoos are already advanced in negotiations in the hope of obtaining giant pandas. In our view, the acquisition of giant pandas should not be approved unless due consideration is given to rarity of the animal which is possibly an endangered species. For this reason, we think it would be irresponsible to import a single animal; only a group with reproductive potential should be imported. The zoo or zoos recipient should be well qualified to care for and breed the animals. Dr. George Schaller of our staff is interested in the possibility of studying the panda in the wild and such studies should ideally precede any attempt to import. In recent years, a number of pandas have been born in Chinese zoos and zoo men should study carefully the techniques of their Chinese colleagues.

Frankly, it is inappropriate to attach outlandish dollar figures to the panda, as you have and arrangements for acquisition of the animals ought to be made on a scientific and educational foundation rather than upon the hoopla of "promotional programs to stimulate the public's interest in securing a panda."

Sincerely,

cc: R.G. Goelet  
G. Schaller  
B. House  
G. Voss  
G. Clarke  
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J. Perry  
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William G. Conway  
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