



## IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

September 8th, 2022

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I have tried reaching out to you via Sue Harris again, to no avail. I received a brief, impersonal response from Ms. Harris on August 4th after I followed up about the letter I sent to you via her email address on July 27th. Her response stated that the Memphis Zoo has been completely transparent when it comes to the care and welfare of Giant pandas Ya Ya and Le Le and that the zoo has no further comments or information to provide.

While I appreciate the zoo's commitment to transparency, the purpose of my letter was to request a meeting with you where we can discuss concerns and hopefully have them addressed in order to serve the best interest of the pandas. There should be no reason that we could not have a meeting between our organization and the zoo. I am asking you to please reconsider.

I would like to add that it will not look good for the Memphis Zoo if there is a refusal to meet with us. We are an international animal protection organization with a 39 year history and a massive following. If the Memphis Zoo is truly committed to transparency and if the best interests of the animals are truly a priority, then you should honor a meeting with us in which we can discuss things in a cordial, diplomatic manner. If a meeting is not granted, we will be prompted to proceed with other measures.

If you are unable to grant us a meeting, then perhaps you can answer this question:

Does the Memphis Zoo have plans to renew the contract with China in April 2023 to keep the pandas at the zoo, or are you planning to retire them to China so that they can live the remainder of their lives peacefully in their natural environment/ homeland with the highest expert panda care?

Thank you for your time and I very much look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

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