Scientists Help Giant Pandas Raise Twins

Any human mother of twins knows **(17)** _____ at the same time. And it's true for other mammals, too. "Nearly half of all giant panda births in zoos and research stations result in twins," says Don Lindburg, **(18)** _____ at the San Diego Zoo. "Taking care of a tiny infant is such a difficult chore **(19)** _____," Lindburg says.

"Every newborn panda is important," says Lindburg. "After giant pandas have grown to adulthood, some of the captive-born bears could be released into the mountainous wilds," he says. Those **(20)** _____ will help rebuild China's population of wild pandas.

At China's Wolong facility, caregivers are helping make the mother's situation more "bear-able". They gently remove one of the twins, keeping it warm and well fed for a week **(21)** _____.

The twins continue to be swapped for months, **(22)** _____ and no longer need nursing. Bamboo, apples, carrots, and biscuits are added to the diet of mother's milk when the cubs are about seven months old. By adulthood, the pandas will eat fresh stems, shoots and leaves of wild bamboo plants.

A who is the leader of the giant panda research team

B until the cubs can eat solid foods

C that mate and give birth to more cubs

D that it's hard to raise two children of the same age

E after female pandas get mature enough to breed

F that mother pandas usually can't handle two

G who weighs about two hundred grams

H before trading it for the cub's brother or sister

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