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6-week-old clouded leopard cubs get names: Chận sung and Suksn



Translated into English, Thai names mean the male is “noble,” the female is “mischievous”

Tacoma, Wash. – [Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium’s](#) 6-week-old clouded leopard cubs are noble and mischievous, according to the majority of people who responded to an online survey to name them. Nearly 6,000 votes were cast by the Wednesday night deadline.

And the winners are: Chận sũng (pronounced Chan-Soon) for the male and Suksn (Sook-Son) for the female. His name translates to “Noble,” hers to “Mischievous.”

Voters selected from among four Thai names for each of the cubs, born at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium on March 6. The proposed monikers were submitted by zoo staff members.

Chận sũng (Chan-Soon) received 2,205 votes, or 37.8 percent of the 5,832 ballots cast in the name-the-male survey. The other choices, their English translations and vote totals were:

- Wiyãṇ (Win-Yan), or Soul, 1,417 votes, 24.3 percent
- Tũxng hiỵ (Tong-Yi) or Big Belly, 1,160 votes, 19.9 percent
- Thảũy (Tum-Li) or Destruction, 1,050 votes, 18 percent

Suksn received 2,699 votes, 46.3 percent of the 5,827 votes cast in the female-naming survey. The other choices and votes cast were:

- Khwām hmāy (Kwam-My) or Meaningful, 1,355 votes, 23.3 percent
- Chokh dī (Chok-De) or Fortunate, 1,292 votes, 22.2 percent
- Thxyhḷang (Toy-Long) or Backwards, 481 votes, 8.3 percent

Staff biologist Andy Goldfarb, the cubs' primary keeper, praised the public for their picks.

"They're great," he said of the names. "They're definitely perfect. The little girl is mischievous. The boy will have to grow into his "Noble" name, but he can do it."

The cubs are doing well, Goldfarb said. They're still bottle fed, but they've been eating – and enjoying – little bits of chicken.

Their parents are Chai Li and her mate, Nah Fun.

The cubs are on exhibit daily in the Asian Forest Sanctuary area of the zoo. Zoo visitors can see their feedings daily at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Clouded leopards, native to the rain forests of Southeast Asia, are an endangered species.

Point Defiance is one of only three zoos in the country with active clouded leopard breeding programs.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).