

TASMANIAN TIGER DECLARED AS A PROTECTED SPECIES 80 YEARS AGO TODAY JUST THREE MONTHS BEFORE BENJAMIN - THE LAST LONELY SURVIVOR - DIED BEHIND BARS AT HOBART ZOO

- **80 YEARS AGO TODAY TASMANIA'S GOVERNOR LISTED THE THYLACINE ENDANGERED**
- **THYLACINE WERE KNOWN AS TASMANIAN TIGERS WHEN THEY WERE STILL ALIVE**
- **BENJAMIN, THE LAST KNOWN ONE TO EXIST, DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN HOBART ZOO**
- **IT WAS THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DECLARATION WAS MADE THAT BENJAMIN DIED**
- **THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS FOR 80 YEARS SINCE THEIR EXTINCTION**

It was 80 years ago today that Tasmania's governor declared the Thylacine, commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger, was to become a protected species - following mass killings of their species. However, sadly the intervention by Australian authorities was too little too late for the animal, when the last of its kind, affectionately named Benjamin, died while in its enclosure at a Hobart Zoo.

Mass killings which began when a bounty system was introduced in 1830 offered farmers that shot the creatures one pound for every dead adult and ten shillings for each dead joey.



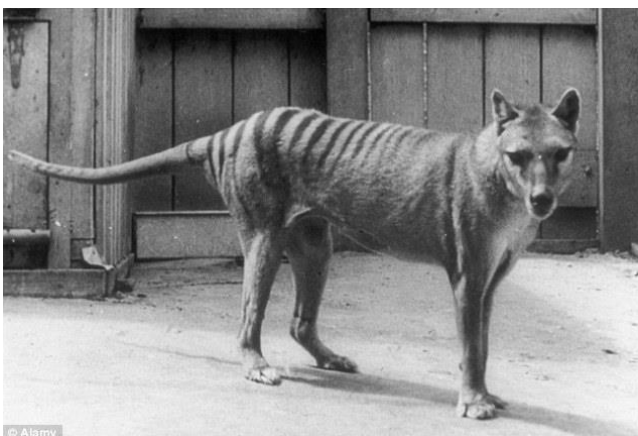
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3682983/Tasmanian-tiger-declared-protected-species-80-years-ago-today-just-three-months-survivor-died-Hobart-Zoo.html#v-6133406916544449087>

The bounty was not terminated until 1909 and the species were hunted as prized trophies and killed over fear that they would threaten livestock.

Under the Animals and Birds' Protection Act, issued in 1928, the Tasmanian governor at the time, Sir Ernest Clark exercised his 'power and

authority' to put the rare marsupial onto a list of endangered species.

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Despite Clark's attempts to safeguard the threatened species the last known Thylacine died in Hobart Zoo in September that year only three months after the decision was made.

Sightings of the rare creature were allegedly made for years after Benjamin's death until 1986 when the Thylacine was officially classified as extinct.

It was 80 years ago today that Tasmania's governor declared the Thylacine (pictured), commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger, was to become a protected species - following mass killings of their species

However, sadly the intervention by Australian authorities was too little too late for the animal, when the last of its kind, affectionately named Benjamin (pictured), died while in its enclosure at a Hobart Zoo

The tale of the last Thylacine is a relatively sad one, when it was left to die out in the cold conditions of its enclosure at Hobart Zoo.

As one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials known to exist in modern times, the Thylacine, Greek for 'dog-headed pouched one' claimed its more common name Tasmanian tiger due to its distinctive striped back.

Benjamin spent several years behind bars in the Hobart Zoo after it was caught in the Florentine Valley in 1933.

The gender remains a mystery to this day but its death is believed to have been the result of neglect.



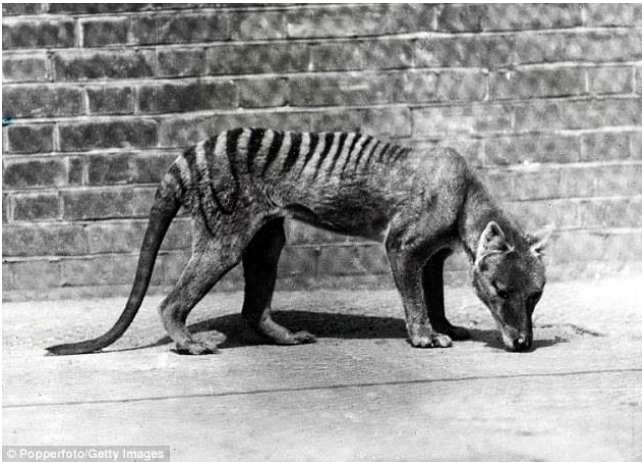
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One extremely cold Tasmanian night the animal was locked out of its sheltered sleeping quarters and died from exposure.

The last known motion picture footage of the specimen was shot in its enclosure in a clip taken in 1933 by naturalist David Flea.

Thylacine once roamed the Australian mainland before the British settlement of the continent and the introduction of the Dingo.

It was later confined to Tasmania where the species deteriorated and hasn't been seen for 80 years.



The tale of the last Thylacine is a relatively sad one, when it was left to die out in the cold conditions of its enclosure at Hobart Zoo (pictured)

As one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials known to exist in modern times, the Thylacine, Greek for 'dog-headed pouched one' claimed its more common name

Tasmanian tiger due to its distinctive striped back

Surviving evidence suggests that it was a relatively shy, nocturnal creature with the general appearance of a medium-to-large-size dog, except for its stiff tail and abdominal pouch. In 1996, on the sixtieth anniversary of the last Tasmanian tiger's death, September 7 was declared 'National Threatened Species Day'.

It is a day to be able to reflect on what happened in the past and how people can help protect



Australia's threatened species in the future.

There are now 41,415 species on the IUCN Red List, and 16,306 of them are endangered species threatened with extinction.



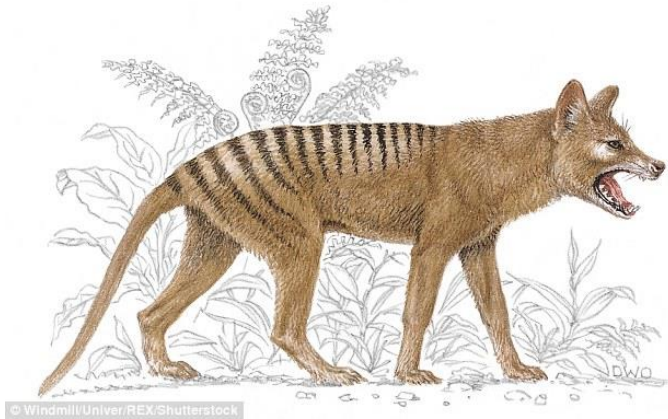
More than 300 animals are listed as 'threatened' by the Australian government, including the Tasmanian Devil, which is believed to come from the same family as the Tasmanian tiger

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Meanwhile in July last year a Tasmanian tiger enthusiast kept the debate whether the species still existed alive after grainy footage of a animal resembling the animal was captured.

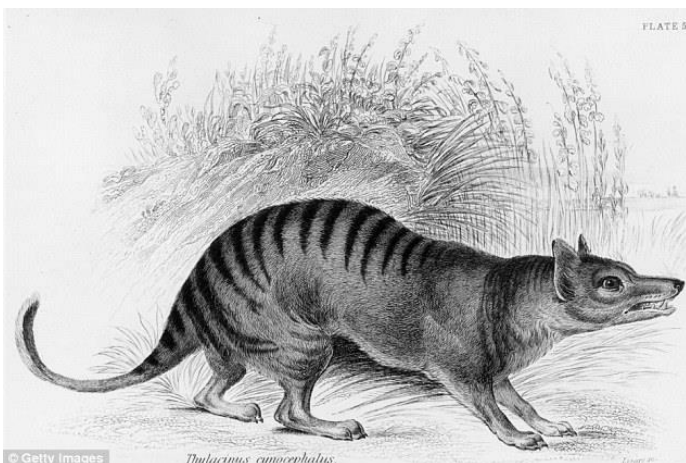
The footage shows a scrawny dog-like creature scampering through a meadow.



Michael Moss, the owner of the footage, claims there will be concrete evidence in the near future to prove they are in fact still alive.

There have been no other concrete sightings since.

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