



## Tasmanian Tiger

Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) has recently released a document detailing eight **reported sightings of the Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine**, in the last three years.

- The Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine (a dog headed pouched dog) was an exclusively **carnivorous marsupial** that is **considered to be extinct (also the IUCN status)**.
  - **Marsupial** is a mammal of an order whose members are born incompletely developed and are typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly. Marsupials are **found chiefly in Australia and New Guinea, and also in America**.
  - Thylacine was widespread over continental Australia, extending North to New Guinea and south to Tasmania (an Island state of Australia).
  - It was **confined to Tasmania in recent times** and disappeared from mainland Australia over 2000 years ago, mainly **because of over-hunting by humans, diseases and competition from the Dingo (Canis lupus)**, a wild dog native to Australia.
  - The Thylacine was also persecuted because it was believed to be a threat to sheep and in its latter years it was hunted for the purposes of collection by museums and zoos.
  - The **last known thylacine died in captivity over 80 years ago**, in Tasmania's Hobart Zoo in 1936.
- It is **also known as the Tasmanian Wolf** and bears some resemblance to a dog, with its distinguishing features being the **dark stripes beginning at the rear of its body and extending into its stiff tail** and abdominal pouch.

### What is a Tasmanian tiger?

The thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger, is a large carnivorous marsupial believed extinct for more than 80 years.





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