

《香港夫妇行山疑遇老虎 警方搜山无发现》

一对年轻夫妇行山时，报称遇到巨型猫科动物，怀疑是老虎。消防到场搜索无果。专家称老虎可能性为零。



Hong Kong's authorities have searched a country park after receiving a call from a couple who claimed to have spotted a tiger in the area.

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However police found no trace of the animal, which was described as yellow and 90cm (3ft) long. It is now thought the couple may have seen a leopard cat.

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Experts say tigers have not been seen in Hong Kong for more than 50 years.

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Leopard cats, which can grow up to about 70cm in length, are found in parts of Asia including China.

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The couple called the police on Tuesday morning after they saw the animal on Ma On Shan Country Park. They were escorted downhill by an officer.

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"They claimed the animal was yellow in colour and measured about 3 feet by 2 feet. They were worried, so they called police," a police spokesman told the South China Morning Post.

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The couple were sent to hospital suffering from shock, Radio Television Hong Kong reported.

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The couple were later shown photos of various feline animals - and said a photo of a leopard cat was similar to the animal they saw.

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Dr Michael Lau, a director at the WWF's Wetlands Conservation department, told the BBC it was "highly unlikely" that the animal they saw was a wild tiger.

????????????????Michael Lau????BBC????????"????"????

"The South China tiger is probably extirpated from the region, plus the size of the animal is small and if it were a tiger it would be a cub, [meaning that] its mother would be nearby and likely signs of kills would be seen by people," Dr Lau said.

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"Hong Kong also no longer has enough space to support tigers. The last substantiated tiger sighting was in Shatin in 1947."

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Timothy Bonebrake of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Hong Kong, told the BBC "the likelihood of it being a tiger is close to zero per cent", and added that "leopard cats that are relatively abundant in parts of Hong Kong".

????????Timothy Bonebrake??BBC?“????????????????”?????“????????????????”?

While the South China tiger is considered to be "functionally extinct", the Leopard Cat population is considered stable.

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Leopard cats typically have yellow or reddish brown coats with dark spots and streaks, and are nocturnal.

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