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Tayra Eira barbara, Tambopata Reserve, Peru. This species, the only member of the genus, is found from Mexico to northern Argentina and on the island of Trinidad. A forest dweller, it nests in hollow trees or burrows made by other animals, and can climb, run and swim. The tayra can live in captivity for 18 years, loves to play and can be tamed. It was used long ago by the Indians to control rodents. The subspecies E. b. senex in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico is listed as Vulnerable in the 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals because of rapid population declines Gunter Ziesler/Bruce Coleman Limited

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