



This year [Punxsutawney Phil](#)'s prognostication will be the only one that matters to most Birminghamians. [The Birmingham Zoo announced via their website that Birmingham Bill will be taking the year off](#), encouraging those interested in getting a prediction on Groundhog Day to turn their eyes to Pennsylvania.

The zoo has hosted a local version of the long-standing tradition since 1990, with it's digital announcement marking the end of a nearly ten-year old practice of using stand-ins for the original Bill. He passed away in 1996 at age 10 — just eleven days after delivering his final forecast (for those wondering, he didn't see his shadow that year).

By the way, [Phil did indeed see his shadow this morning](#), meaning there's at least six more weeks of winter weather in store for us (even though the weather in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania this morning was light drizzle with clouds [as a winter storm warning remains in effect for the area](#), but hey...).

We are still waiting to hear from Smith Lake Jake, though [he told the folks at Alabama Power's News Center last week \(through his translator\)](#) he thought we would see an early spring.

Photo: Birmingham Bill, via Bhamwiki/Birmingham Zoo