

### Panther #70<sub>F1</sub> Gives Birth to F2's

Panther #70<sub>F1</sub> gave birth to 3 kittens (2 females, 1 male) in Big Cypress National Preserve in mid June. The den was visited on 23 June and all the usual measurements and samples were taken. Panther #70 is an F1 offspring (born 5/97) of Texas cougar 107. The kittens ranged from 2.1 to 2.2 pounds and appeared in good condition. The father is panther #79<sub>F1</sub> (born 9/95 of TX 101). These kittens represent the first true "F2's" in the panther population.

*(TECHNICAL NOTE: it is customary to refer to hybrid offspring from a parental generation, ie. Florida panther male and Texas cougar female, as the **first filial** or **F1** generation. The offspring resulting from the cross between two F1 generation members are then referred to as **F2's** (**second filial generation**). In practical terms for the panther population what this means is any offspring from a Texas cougar female will be termed an F1. When a female F1 gives birth, the offspring may or may not be F2's depending on the sire. If the sire is another "pure" Florida panther, the offspring will be considered "back crosses." If, however, the sire is also an F1 (as in this case - #70 is an F1 and #79 is an F1) the offspring are considered F2's. Watch for updates of these kittens to appear in future editions of the Genetic Restoration Progress Reports.*