

## Florida Panther Field Note November 2003

The “capture season,” got under way on November 24th. This is the time of year when we capture panthers to replace radio-collars and hunt for additional panthers to add to our sample size. We hope to add a few more since our current radio-collared sample size is only 22 panthers. We will be deploying Global Positioning System (GPS) radio-collars again this year to continue to explore the feasibility of using this relatively new technology to remotely monitor panthers.

### **Mortalities**

- **UCFP59.** Uncollared Florida panther #59 was a 3-4 month old female kitten that was hit and killed by a vehicle on CR858 in Collier County about 1 mile west of State Road 29 on 2 November. The mother is uncollared. Although this is an unfortunate incident, it is encouraging to know that reproduction is still occurring in this area.
- **FP86.** Female Florida panther #86 was initially thought to be exhibiting denning behavior based on restricted movements but something just didn't seem right. Upon investigating the area it was realized that FP86 had mobility problems and was under weight. She was captured and removed to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida for diagnosis. A lesion of unknown origin was detected on the spinal chord near the base of the tail that caused paralysis in the hind legs. Permanent damage to the spinal chord had occurred and FP86 was euthanized on 7 November.