

Florida Panther Field Note October 2003

Florida Panther 114 Dies from Intraspecific Aggression

On October 17, 2003, Florida panther 114 was killed by an uncollared adult male panther. Commission biologists classify deaths caused by fighting among panthers as "intraspecific aggression."

FP114 was initially orphaned along with his sister, FP113, in October 2002 when their mother was killed in another incident of intraspecific aggression. Both FP113 and FP114 were raised until able to secure their own prey and were released back into their mother's former home range. It is unfortunate that FP114 did not survive longer than 2 months after being released. But this was a known risk; one that all young male panthers must overcome before taking their place in panther society. FP114 had good body weight and was doing well before he died. It's possible that the same panther that killed his mother also killed him. However, we cannot say this with certainty since the aggressor is uncollared. For more details on the capture, rearing, and subsequent release of FP114 refer to the previous Field Note "Orphaned Florida Panther Kittens Returned To Wild."

<http://www.panther.state.fl.us/news/pdf/OrphanedPantherKittens.pdf>