

Florida Panther Field Note
May – June 2001

Prepared by Mark Lotz

May 2001

Births

#88_{F2} – Florida panther #88_{F2} gave birth towards the beginning of May in the Loop Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve. The den site was visited on the 25th and 4 kittens were handled, 2 males and 2 females. They were 3 weeks old and ranged in weight from 2 pounds-2 ounces to 3 pounds-3 ounces. All appeared healthy.

#67 – The following day, the 26th, we handled the kittens of Florida panther #67 in Hendry County. She also had 4 kittens, 2 males and 2 females. As with #67's last litter, these kittens also displayed a lighter than normal pigmentation, otherwise they appeared healthy. They were 3 weeks old and ranged in weight from 3 pounds-2 ounces to 3 pounds-9 ounces.



Deworming medication is administered to one of #67's kittens.

Deaths

Three uncollared Florida panthers were struck and killed on State Road 29 in Collier County this month. On May 7th two 10-month old siblings were hit near Jerome between Alligator Alley and US 41. A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer responded to the first call around midnight and recovered a young female. I went to the site the following morning to get a UTM coordinate (similar to lat/long coordinate) and discovered her male sibling about 300 feet from where the female was found. This is the first time siblings from the same litter have been hit. Their mother is uncollared. On the 21st, a male

panther was killed near Sunniland north of Alligator Alley. He was estimated to be about 2-years old.

June 2001

Births

#75 - Two male kittens were handled on the 15th in the Bear Island Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve. They were 10-12 days old and both weighed 2 pounds-10 ounces.



Kittens in the relative safety of their den.

#55 – Florida panther #55 is now about 9 years old and is approaching the end of her reproductive years. However, a single male kitten was handled on the 28th. He was about 2 ½ weeks old and weighed 3 pounds-1 ounce. He was very spunky and boisterous.

Deaths

An uncollared 4-year-old female was struck and killed by a vehicle on CR 846 in Hendry County on June 13th. The carcass wasn't reported to us until the following day. By this time the vultures had done quite a bit of work. She had many broken bones and a crushed skull indicating a severe collision.

