

Florida Panther Field Notes

Capture Season Update

April 2002

We finished up the capture season this month when we recollared FP67 on the 22nd. Additionally this month we collected 2 road-killed panthers and marked kittens from 3 panthers that denned.

FP67 Recollared

Monday April 22, 2002

FP67 spends most of her time on private land and today was no exception. We'd like to express our gratitude to the guys at Green Glades West for their hospitality and generosity in providing access to their land so we could change FP67's collar. She is just under 5 years old, weighed 81 pounds, and was pregnant.



Tooth wear and condition is one of the methods used to determine age in panthers.

Roadkills

Friday April 5, 2002

An uncollared 3-year-old male panther was struck and killed by a vehicle on US 27 in Glades County 3.5 miles north of Palmdale. He was in good condition and weighed 136 pounds. He had a kinked tail and was unilaterally cryptorchid (only one testicle) but did not have a cowlick. There was no transponder indicating that he had not been handled before.

Wednesday April 10, 2002

An uncollared dependant 5-6 month old male kitten was killed by a vehicle on SR29 near Deep Lake (6.5 miles south of I-75) in Collier County. He weighed 43 pounds and had a cowlick. The mother is also uncollared.

Births

FP95_{F1}

Sunday April 21, 2002

FP95_{F1}, at Everglades National Park, had one female kitten that was examined at 3.5 weeks of age. She weighed 3 pounds-5 ounces.



This den was located underneath a blown down Brazilian pepper tree in a dense Brazilian pepper thicket.

FP93_{B-TX}

Tuesday April 23, 2002

FP93_{B-TX} gave birth to 4 kittens, 1 male and 3 females, in the Turner River Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve. They were handled and marked with transponders when 2.5 weeks old. They all weighed right around 3 pounds and appeared healthy.

FP78

Tuesday April 30, 2002

FP78 gave birth to 4 kittens, 1 male and 3 females, on the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. They were handled at 3 weeks of age. FP78 spent seemingly little time at the den site, at least during our regular telemetry location flights, which made it difficult to detect that she was denning. When it was recognized, we set out to pinpoint the den. But when we arrived she was away again. Since it was a relatively small palmetto patch we decided to search for the den and found it with surprisingly little effort. I'll admit that luck had a small part to do with it but I believe our expertise through the dozens of dens we've done before played a bigger role. We knew exactly what we were looking for.



*Some of the panther's kittens we've handled have had this "cranial dermatitis."
So far we are uncertain of the cause or the significance of this condition.*