

## Panther #16 Found Dead in Everglades National Park 7 January 2000

Panther #16 was found dead on 7 January 2000, on the northeastern boundary of Everglades National Park (ENP). Panther #16, a 14 year-old male, was the only known adult male residing in Everglades National Park. The carcass was found by the FWC panther capture team who were conducting panther surveys in ENP at the time. Because of a malfunctioning radiocollar, #16's carcass was not found until approximately four days post-mortem. Although #16 was found dead in an area of high agricultural use, no evidence of foul-play was observed. Preliminary results from a necropsy conducted at the University of Florida's Veterinary School showed no obvious signs of trauma. Although the degree of tissue degradation prevented a specific cause of death from being determined (**see photo**), preliminary necropsy results attributed #16's death to natural causes. However, it was determined that #16 had a healed broken leg which could have resulted from being struck by a vehicle. Although this healed fracture caused the leg to be shorter than the others, FWC personnel found tracks made by #16's a few days prior to his death that indicated he was walking normally.

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