

Update on Panther #84_{B-FL} Cause of Death

It was reported in the April 3-21, 2000, Capture Activity Report that panther #84_{B-FL} mysteriously died just two weeks after becoming the third panther documented crossing the Caloosahatchee River. This was a dispersing-aged male (13-14 months) in good condition. When we found him there were no obvious signs of trauma. At the necropsy it was thought that an unidentified virus was isolated from the brain. This was sent to the Center for Disease Control for identification. The findings from that test are finally in. The report states, "Attempt to passage the virus failed: therefore this was likely a spurious [sic] result." In short, a cause of death could not be identified. It goes in the record books as *unknown*.