

Florida Panther Field Note August – September 2004

Dens

- **FP94** started denning on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park near the end of July but the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) panther team biologists were not notified in sufficient time to successfully handle the kittens.
- **FP121** - The FWC team handled a 2-week-old female kitten on September 1st on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.



FP121's 2-week-old kitten is prepared to receive a dose of deworming medicine.

- **FP124** - On September 29th, the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) and FWC capture team handled one 4-week-old kitten on Big Cypress National Preserve south of US41.

Mortalities

- **K156**, a 6-month-old male kitten from the pair produced by FP120, was struck and killed by a vehicle on August 2nd on US41 near where his mother was injured by a vehicle. You may recall that FP120 was hit by a car on July 11th and suffered a broken leg. She is recovering well and expected to be released sometime this winter. No sign of the remaining female kitten was ever found.
- **K94**, a 3 yr-3 month-old male, was struck and killed by a vehicle on August 17th on I-75 (Alligator Alley) near the 98 mile marker; 2 miles east of the Naples tollbooth. This portion of the Alley is not protected by wildlife fencing or underpasses. K94 was born to FP88 in BCNP and first handled at the den in May 2001. K94 was never radio-collared thus he retained his "K" designation as identification.
- **UCFP67** was a 1-week-old female kitten born to FP113 on the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge during the last week of August. During preliminary investigations to pinpoint the den site on Sept 2nd, FWC panther biologist Mark Lotz heard the kitten calling from a location ¼ mile from the suspected den site. The kitten was infested with maggots and died before it could be euthanized. FP113 showed no further signs of denning.
- **UCFP68** was an adult female found in the woods of BCNP on September 30th by an exotic plant control crew working on the Preserve. A cause of death could not be determined.

Other Panther News

- **FP130** became the 4th radio-collared male panther to cross north of the Caloosahatchee River sometime over the weekend of August 27th-29th. On Friday's flight he was located south of Caloosahatchee River near Lake Hicpochee and on Monday's flight he was north of the river and just northeast of LaBelle; a distance of 13 miles (21km). FP130 is just under 1.5 years old and began dispersing from his natal range on Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest earlier this year.
- Radio contact was lost with male **FP125** on September 28th when his collar was found on Krome Avenue 1.5 miles south of US41 in Miami-Dade County. FP125 began dispersing from his natal range in BCNP when just over a year old. Given his young age and potential for growth, his collar was equipped with a "break-away" device. When the collar was found the "break-away" displayed an even tear across it's width indicating it came off in one sudden motion rather than the gradual wearing away that is typical of such devices. FP125 may have been struck by a vehicle, which caused the collar to break away (this has been observed in bears equipped with "break-aways" that have sustained vehicular trauma). No carcass was found nearby so FP125's fate remains undetermined.