

## Florida Panther 116 Gives Birth to Litter of Three May 2004

Florida panther (FP) #116 gave birth to 3 kittens, a male and 2 females, in late April. They were handled on May 11<sup>th</sup> when 2-weeks old. Each weighed just under 2.5 pounds. This is especially exciting because FP116 was orphaned at 7 months of age when her mother, FP67, was killed by male FP65 on January 15, 2003. FP116 was taken into captivity on January 20, 2003, for 7 months and raised until she was able to fend for herself. At 14-months old and capably capturing deer on her own, she was released back into her mothers' former home range on August 20, 2003. Refer to the Field Note "Orphaned Florida Panther Kittens Returned to Wild" from 9/03 for more details. Interestingly, the male responsible for killing FP116's mother sired FP116's kittens. After a disrupted natural development it is good to see the efforts of all those involved rewarded by FP116 becoming a productive member of the endangered Florida panther population.

