

Florida Panther Field Note June 2004

Births

FP70 gave birth to 1 male and 2 females on Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP). They were handled by the BCNP crew on Sunday June 6 and estimated to be about 2 weeks old.

Mortalities

Uncollared Florida Panther (UCFP) 66, a 3 to 5-year old male, was struck and killed by a vehicle on I-75 (Alligator Alley) in Collier County on Sunday June 27 near the 93 mile marker, 8 miles east of the tollbooth at Naples. He did not have a transponder indicating he was not handled as a neonate (kitten) at the den.

Removals

FP60, an 8.5 year-old male, was indicted in taking some livestock at a campground within BCNP south of US41. Aversive conditioning progressed to the point of a cage trap being set on Sunday June 27. FP60 was captured in the trap on Tuesday June 29 around 2:30 AM. His condition warranted an examination by the panther veterinarian. Upon a more thorough assessment it was evident that FP60 was underweight and anemic. He was then transported to a specialized facility for further testing. X-rays indicated healing fractures of the skull that were likely sustained during a collision with an automobile. Telemetry data indicating restricted movements coincides and supports this theory based on the age of the healing fractures. FP60 also suffered nerve damage to the left side of his head and is unable to chew or bite properly on his left side. The anemia was due to a severe hookworm infestation. Adding to his troubles is a case of pneumonia. FP60 will be held in captivity for further tests and until his condition improves.

You can help with the recovery of FP60 by donating to the Panther Fund established by The Wildlife Foundation of Florida. This fund was created last year to aid in the recovery of injured and orphaned Florida panthers. Anyone can donate to this fund. Checks should be made payable to Wildlife Foundation of Florida and mailed to P. O. Box 11010, Tallahassee, FL 32302. **Checks should be earmarked "Florida Panther Fund."** For more info on the Foundation visit their website at www.wildlifefoundationofflorida.com and for more details on why this fund so important visit www.panther.state.fl.us/funding.html



Photo caption:

FP60 awaits his exam in the cage trap he was captured in.