

Safe roads for people and panthers



© Bob Repenning

Observe posted speed limits.

The Florida panther is a federally endangered species and every individual is important for the panther's survival. Wildlife underpasses have helped, but they are not practical in all areas. That is why reduced nighttime speed zones exist where panthers are known to frequently cross roads. By obeying posted speed limits you can help ensure the survival of this critically endangered species and avoid personal injury and property damage.

Can you spare a minute?

At 45 m.p.h. a car travels three-fourths of a mile in one minute. Driving through a three-mile-long panther zone would only take an extra minute at 45 m.p.h. compared to traveling at 60 m.p.h.

Be aware when driving.

- Areas where panthers frequently cross roadways are marked with warning signs.
- Panther activity is greatest between dusk and dawn when visibility is lowest. Driving slower allows you time to react.
- Watch for an animal's eyeshine at night. Use caution if road reflectors "disappear," this means an animal is in front of them.
- Scan the road and shoulder ahead. If you see a panther cross the road ahead of you, slow down, there could be others.

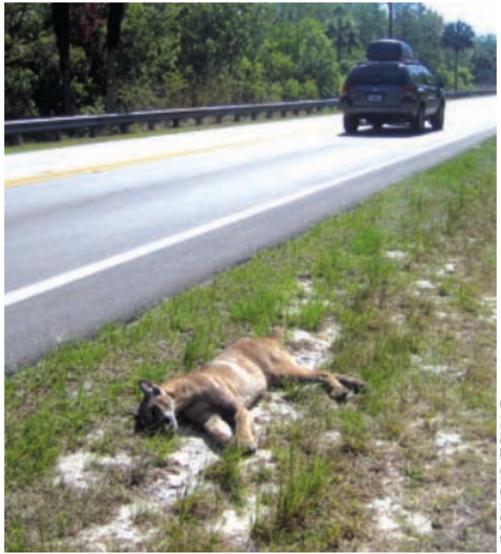


Fast Facts

- Road kills are a leading cause of death for Florida panthers and black bears.
- Entire litters have died in vehicle collisions.
- The average cost of a speeding ticket issued in a nighttime panther speed zone often exceeds \$200.
- Excessive speeds result in a mandatory court appearance.

If you hit a panther or if you see an injured or a road-killed panther,

- Call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's toll free Wildlife Alert hotline immediately at 1-888-404-3922.
- If you cannot remain at the site, give detailed location instructions. Your information could help biologists rescue the animal.
- Do not approach if the panther is injured, for your safety as well as the animal's.
- Watch the animal from a safe distance, preferably from inside your vehicle, until help arrives.



Learn more at MyFWC.com/Panther

