



Florida Panther (Puma Concolor Coryi) Fact Sheet

What do adult Florida panthers look like?

The Florida panther is a large cat with a long tail. They are tan and have a white belly. A male panther can weigh over 130 pounds. Panthers never have black coats. They can appear black in dim light or when wet. Leopards and jaguars can be black.



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What do the kittens look like?

The kittens have bright blue eyes that later change to amber. They have spots and six black rings on their tails to help hide them from predators. They weigh about a pound when born.



Courtesy Florida Wildlife Commission MARK LUTZ

Do Florida panthers roar?

They do not roar but they purr like a house cat. They also whistle, mew, chirp, hiss, growl and scream. The scream is called a caterwaul.

What do they eat?

They eat mostly wild-hog and white-tailed deer. They also prey on raccoon, armadillo, rabbit, bird and occasionally even alligators!

Panthers see very well at night and their whiskers help them sense their surroundings. Their whiskers sense small changes in moving air so the cat can “see” in many ways.



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How many Panthers are there?

The Florida panther is an Endangered Species. There are between 100 to 160 Florida panthers. They are one of the rarest mammals on earth. This cat was elected as Florida’s State Animal in 1982 by school age children.

Where do panthers live?

Florida panthers live in South Florida. They once lived in all of the southeast United States.

How long do they live?

Panthers live about twelve years in the wild

How do biologists study Florida panthers?

Trip cameras, which are special cameras mounted on trees, take a picture when a panther goes by. Radio collars are used to track panthers. The collars give off beeps that are picked up by biologists to locate them. When female panthers stay in one spot for a long time they may have kittens in a den. Biologists then can locate the den and check on their health.



Courtesy Florida Wildlife Commission Trip Camera

Can panthers swim?

Yes, panthers cross rivers and swamps if they need to but prefer dry forest.

What can you do to help Florida panthers?

Become a friend of the Florida panther, they need your help. One way you can help is to remind people not to speed in panther territory. To learn more about panthers and stay informed about panther issues go to www.floridapanther.org and <http://www.floridapanthernet.org> .

