**Panther Facts**   
**Life History:** Although we call them Florida panthers, these shy cats once roamed throughout the entire Southeast from east Texas to the Atlantic and north to parts of Tennessee.   
  
Overhunting, loss of habitat, and reduction of their primary prey reduced their population to a remnant living on the southern tip of Florida.   
  
They prefer upland habitat but will use diverse habitats. They mainly prey on deer and hogs.   
  
**Description:** Overall coat color is tan (not black), often darker along center of back; creamy white under; black on back of ears, muzzle, and tail tip.   
  
**Males:** average 130 pounds and measure 6 to 8 feet with the tail; shoulder height of 2.6 feet; front pad width greater than 2 inches. Males defend home ranges up to 200 sq. miles that overlap ranges of several females; mature at 3 years; average lifespan of 10 years if they reach adulthood.   
  
**Females:** average 80 pounds and measure 5 to 7 feet with tail; shoulder height of 2.2 feet; front pad width less than 2 inches. Females have a home range of 80 sq. miles, overlapping with other females; mature at 1.5 years; breed year round with peak denning period in spring; den in palmetto thickets; gestation of 3 months; litter size 1-4, average of 2; kittens leave den at 2 months, independent at 1.5 years; 15 year lifespan if they reach adulthood.   
  
Learn more facts about these extraordinary animals by visiting http://www.floridapanther.org/