



Pathology Biology Section – 2009

G30 The Application of DNA Identification Technology to Large Wildlife Carnivore Attacks on Humans

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The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate the use of DNA typing to confirm the identity of wildlife predators in attacks on humans.

The growth and encroachment of human populations into rural areas, and the consequences of several years of drought, especially in the western United States, has resulted in more frequent contact with large predators such as mountain lions and bears, with sometimes fatal consequences for one or both. Correct identification of the species and individual animal is essential to ensuring public safety with minimal loss of endangered wildlife. The application of modern DNA technology to a fatal mountain lion and non-fatal mountain lion and a recent bear attack on humans with two-way and one-way transfers of DNA that enabled certain identification of the predator will be presented.

Forensic DNA, STR, Puma