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## NON-HUMAN FORENSIC GENETICS

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Forensic genetics was defined as the application of genetics to human and nonhuman material (studying inherited characteristics for the analysis of inter- and intraspecific variations in populations) for the resolution (and prevention) of legal conflicts. Recently we have witnessed the increasing use of nonhuman DNA, from the ancillary role in criminal investigations as 'silent witness' to the essential role in the control of traffic of protected species and their products and microbial identification in bioterrorism or medical malpractice. We review this growing scope of applications and identify the major current difficulties, mainly resulting from the lack of standards and genetic databases as well as the poor or absent taxonomic definition of many major groups.

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