

Disgraced Korean scientist unveils cloned coyotes

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South Korea's disgraced cloning expert Hwang Woo-Suk (C) walks into a court in Seoul in 2009. Hwang was a national hero until some of his research into creating human stem cells from a cloned embryo was found to be faked.

Disgraced South Korean stem cell scientist Hwang Woo-Suk unveiled eight cloned coyotes Monday in a project sponsored by a provincial government.

Hwang delivered the clones to a wild animal shelter at Pyeongtaek, 50 kilometres (35 miles) south of Seoul, in a ceremony chaired by Gyeonggi province governor Kim Moon-Soo, Kim's office said.

Hwang was a national hero until some of his research into creating human stem cells from a cloned embryo was found to be faked.

But his work in creating Snuppy, the world's first cloned dog, in 2005 has been verified by experts and authorities.

Under a joint project with the province to clone [wild animals](#), Hwang took cells from the skin of a coyote, Kim's office said in a statement.

He transplanted their nuclei into a dog's eggs from which the canine nucleus had been removed, it said, adding the first clone was born on June 17.

In a Twitter message, the governor praised Hwang for what he called the world's first use of such a technique. "The cloning of an African wild dog is under way, and we will attempt to clone a mammoth in the future," Kim said.

South Korean experts have previously cloned animals including a cow, a cat, dogs, a pig and a wolf. The cloned wolf died in 2009.

Hwang shot to fame in 2004 when he published a paper in the US [journal Science](#) claiming to have created the world's first stem-cell line from a cloned human embryo.

But his reputation was tarnished in November 2005 by allegations that he had violated [medical ethics](#) by accepting human eggs from his own researchers.

In January 2006 an investigative team ruled that his findings were faked and said he had produced no [stem cells](#) of any kind.

In 2009 Hwang received a two-year suspended sentence for embezzling research funds and ethical lapses in obtaining [human eggs](#). Last December an appeals court reduced the penalty to an 18-month suspended sentence.

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