Mule cloner's death attributed to suicide

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MOSCOW - Renowned equine reproduction scientist Gordon L. Woods died at his own hand, Debbie Reisdorff, Larimer County, Colo., deputy coroner, reported Monday.

"The manner of death is suicide. Cause of death is gunshot wound to the head," Reisdorff said, reading from a death certificate that is part of the public record.

Woods, 57, achieved worldwide recognition in 2003 while at the University of Idaho for leading a research team that cloned three mule foals. Media outlets from around the world covered the groundbreaking research.

A professor of animal and veterinary science, he moved his program in 2007 to Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Woods was also known worldwide as a pioneer in applying equine research to human health issues.

"He died on August 20th, at 4:02 a.m. at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colo.," Reisdorff said.

