

Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific Misconduct with Respect to Reporting of Scientific Data in the *Journal of Animal Science*

- The current Instructions for Authors to the *Journal of Animal Science (JAS)* includes a statement indicating that it is the responsibility of the authors to ensure the accuracy of collection, analysis, and interpretation of data in manuscripts published in *JAS* and ultimately to guarantee the veracity of the contents of articles published in *JAS*. Neither the ASAS Board of Directors nor the *JAS* Editorial Staff and Editorial Board are investigative bodies. Investigation of scientific misconduct with respect to reporting of scientific data in articles published in *JAS* is the responsibility of the institution(s) with which the author(s) are affiliated or the agency (or agencies) that funded the research, or both.
- When allegations of any type of misconduct with respect to reporting scientific of data are lodged against a manuscript submitted for publication in *JAS* or a paper published in *JAS*, the Editor-in-Chief will review the charges. The Editor-in-Chief should seek input from the Associate Editor and Division Editor who are assigned to the submitted manuscript or who directed the original review of a published paper. The ASAS Board of Directors also may be consulted regarding the review of such charges. Steps must be taken to ensure that no one involved in the review of an allegation has a conflict of interest. For an allegation of misconduct in which the Editor-in-Chief has a conflict of interest, the review will be conducted by the ASAS Board of Directors or an appointed committee thereof. If the charges are deemed to have merit (e.g., the result of apparent scientific misconduct rather than a misunderstanding that can be resolved without reporting), the Editor-in-Chief will contact the administrative official(s) responsible for research at the institution(s) with which the author(s) is affiliated and inform them of the charge(s). For a published article, the Editor-in-Chief should immediately initiate an independent evaluation of the review process for the article in question to ensure that proper procedures were followed and that the review process was not subject to bias or conflicts of interest.
- Requests to retract the publication of an article in *JAS* may be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief by: (1) a majority of the authors; (2) the administrative official(s) responsible for research at the institution(s) with which the author(s) is affiliated; or (3) an official of the agency (or agencies) that funded the research. Such requests will be reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief in conjunction with the ASAS Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors who has a conflict of interest related to the publication will be excluded from the review and decision-making processes. With the approval (by majority vote) of the ASAS Board of Directors, the Editor-in-Chief will prepare a written statement for publication in *JAS* indicating that publication of the article has been retracted. The retraction will be linked to the online article, and the online article will be updated to reflect the retraction.

References for Policy Issues

Reporting Accusations of Scientific Misconduct Involving Manuscripts and Published Articles:

Office of Research Integrity. 2000. *Managing Allegations of Scientific Misconduct: A Guidance Document for Editors*. ORI, Office of Public Health and Science. <http://ori.dhhs.gov/publications/handbooks.shtml.PDF>.

Retracting Publication of Articles:

Style Manual Committee. 2006. Publication policies and practices. Pages 7-20 in *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 7th edition. Council of Science Editors, Reston, VA.