

RETRACTION

Retraction: Estruch, J, Johnson, J, Ford, S, Yoshimoto, S, Mills, T, Bergman, P. Utility of the combined use of 3 serologic markers in the diagnosis and monitoring of chronic enteropathies in dogs. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2021; 35: 1306– 1315. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16132>. The above article, published online on 7 May 2021 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com), has been retracted by agreement between the journal's Co-Editors-in-Chief, Stephen P. DiBartola and Kenneth W. Hinchcliff, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and Wiley Periodicals LLC. The retraction has been agreed because of failure by the authors to disclose major conflicts of interest that, in the view of the editors, would have unduly affected recommendations for acceptance and publication by reviewers and the editors as well as interpretation of the study by readers.

The Co-Editors-in-Chief were first alerted by a reader to concerns about potentially relevant undisclosed conflicts of interest in relation to this article on 22 May, 2021. No conflicts of interest were reported at the time of submission of the article and none were declared in three revisions of the manuscript during the review process. The authors were asked on 1 June 2021 to confirm they had no conflicts of interest, or otherwise to revise their declaration. Drs. Estruch and Bergman replied on 1 June 2021 that they had no conflicts of interest to declare.

A Letter to the Editor questioning aspects of the study's design and expressing concern about undisclosed conflicts of interest was submitted on 2 June 2021 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16303>). The response by the authors did not, in the view of the Co-Editors-in-Chief, adequately address the matter of undisclosed conflicts of interest (<https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16304>). The authors were asked by the Co-Editors-in-Chief on 24 July 2021 to respond to further questions related to undisclosed conflicts of interest. A response from the authors was received on 6 August, 2021. On 24 August 2021, the Co-Editors-in-Chief requested additional information from the authors, which was provided on 4 September 2021.

The Co-Editors-in-Chief convened a panel of four independent experts* to provide advice on whether conflicts of interest were disclosed in a timely fashion and whether knowledge of such conflicts of

interest would have affected assessment of the submitted manuscript by reviewers and editors and interpretation of the published article by readers. The panel advised that, in their opinion, the authors failed to disclose relevant conflicts of interest, specifically that:

- Dr. Estruch is Chief Executive Officer and Director of Vetica Labs.
- Vetica Labs is the developer of the assays reported in the article and these assays are licensed to Antech under a commercial agreement.
- Antech, which is owned by Mars, began offering the assays for clinical use in July 2020.
- Antech is an investor in Vetica Labs.
- Dr. Johnson was a consultant to Vetica Labs between 2015–2018, during the time when the study was conducted, and received speaking fees from Antech in 2020.
- VCA Clinical Studies received fee-for-service payment for provision of the clinical samples included in this study.
- Co-authors Drs. Ford, Johnson, Yoshimoto, Mills and Bergman at both the time of the study and publication of the article were veterinarians associated with VCA or Blue Pearl which are owned by Mars.

Based on the panel's advice and available evidence, the Co-Editors-in-Chief conclude that the authors did not declare relevant conflicts of interest in a timely manner. The Co-Editors-in-Chief believe that failure to disclose major conflicts of interest at the time of submission, during the review process, and at the time of publication could have influenced decisions made by reviewers and the editors as well as interpretation of the study's findings by readers of the published article. These concerns are serious and relevant because the assays described in the article were marketed for clinical use before the article was published and continue to be marketed, and the published article could be used as justification for their use.

* Panelists were Drs. Adrian Boswood (Panel Chair, Royal Veterinary College), Celia Marr (Editor, Equine Veterinary Journal), Judith Radin (Ohio State University) and Hugh Townsend (University of Saskatchewan). A declaration of potential conflicts of interest was made by each panelist and reviewed by the Co-Editors-in-Chief, who hold this document. In the view of the Co-Editors-in-Chief, none of the panelists had relevant conflicts of interest in this matter.