

With deep regret, we acknowledge that during our data analysis, we did not possess all the necessary information, leading to an oversight when interpreting the results. We encountered a discrepancy between the original study's reported data and our dataset concerning two Labrador dogs with higher liver copper levels, sourced externally due to their liver disease. A direct comparison was challenging because the original study presented averages and outliers, and the Principal Investigator from the 2014 paper was a student affiliated with Kansas State University. Amundson contacted the Hill's original authors and bioarchive managers to help identify the discrepancy, but all data transferred remained consistent.

Despite these challenges, Amundson, a Master's degree student and Hill's employee, diligently sought to clarify the inconsistency. Amundson gained access to older files from former company employees who discovered an Excel file with the project's name. We then set out to verify the accuracy of the data, comparing the electronic database against the isolated Excel sheet. Our analytical lab technician's reanalysis of select historical samples confirmed an error in the 2014 data within our current Electronic Medical Database (EMDB).

We discovered a critical field necessary for analysis was lost during an update to our electronic medical records and data system after 2014. This data loss was not due to negligence or inadequate methods; instead, it resulted from a sequence of unforeseen events. The error might have remained undetected for years, which would have been even more disheartening for the author who initially pointed out the inconsistency.

We are dedicated to peer review and maintaining scientific integrity, which is fundamental to advancing veterinary science and animal care.

We regret this sequence of events and are grateful to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) for their understanding and cooperation as we strive to uphold the highest standards of scientific research. We are preparing a corrected manuscript that includes a reanalysis of internally procured samples and will submit it for publication.

My counsel to fellow scientists who encounter errors in their work is to act ethically and responsibly, as this is essential for the credibility and progress of our scientific community.

I hope this helps provide clarity to those who may ask.