

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

Research Ethics in Animal Research

In this issue of the Journal, in the editorial foreword, a brief introduction on ethics in animal research has been given prominence. Animal research is based on principles of 3R. 3 R represents, **R**eplacement, **R**eduction and **R**efinement concepts that have been developed more than 50 years back to ensure more humane animal research. Replacement refers to technologies or approaches which directly replace or avoid the use of animals in experiments where they would otherwise have been used. There are two categories of Replacement; Full and Partial. Full replacement avoids the use of animals for any research. Partial replacement means the use of some animals, based on current scientific thinking, and is not considered capable of experiencing suffering.

Reduction means the methods that minimize the number of animals used per experiment or study consistent with the scientific aims. Further, reduction also includes deferent research methods which allow the information collected per animal in an experiment to be maximized in order to reduce the use of more additional animals.

Refinement corresponds with methods that minimize the pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm that may be experienced by research animals, and which improve their welfare. This is very important, because animals too need to be treated caringly.

Also, according to the data set policy of the journal, from this issue, it is a compulsory to include the data set policy statement by authors at the end of the paper, enabling readers to know about the availability of original data set of the research conducted.

The Editorial committee of the 'Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka' (JAS) plans to implement ethical guidelines published by the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science for researches, editors and reviewers. We will request authors to confirm that ethical and legal approval are obtained prior to the start of the study, and state the name of the authority giving the ethical clearance.

I would like to remark that JAS publishes only high quality research manuscripts with contribution to the knowledge of science. Currently, the JAS has been included in more than 35 journal databases including AGRICOLA, AGORA, Cabi Abstracts, EBOCUS, TEEL and DOAJ. It shows the wider acceptance extended to the JAS by international citations and journal databases. This is an indicator for our progress in journal quality during past years. There were many people behind this success. This honour must go to Dr. Chandrika Dissanayake - Coordinating Editor of JAS, Mr Prasad C. Iddamalgodha, Ms Suiox Cummings of INASP, Ms Amila Tennakoon of SLJOL, Mr harsha Udayakantha Peiris - Copy Editor, all the authors, reviewers and editorial committee members.

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Editor in Chief
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