

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

52/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 52/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/28
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0279/06/15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Devauden
Monmouthshire
GRID REFERENCE ST4797
INCIDENT DATE 17 June 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 22 September 2015

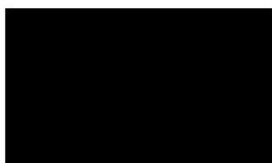
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
98137	buzzard	7/7/15	28-B0279-06-15 : spec no '1' : item 'Raptor (buzzard/owl)'
98137	buzzard	7/7/15	28-B0279-06-15 : spec no '1' : item 'Raptor (buzzard/owl)'

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found and poisoning was suspected. The remains of the dead buzzard were found and reported to the Welsh Government. The finder voiced concerns over lack of raptors in the area and that there was a rat problem. He himself had trapped a large number of rats in the previous year, but knew that his neighbours were using rodenticide. It was also alleged that other dead raptors have been found in the area over the last few years. The buzzard was collected and stored in a freezer until it could be delivered to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

A juvenile buzzard, in fair body condition, weight 400g was submitted for post-mortem. On visual examination both the head and upper neck were missing, as was the skin over the majority of the carcass, apart from the wings. A large number of maggots were present in the abdominal cavity. Only an enlarged gizzard was present, which contained fur and bone remnants that were from a suspect rat carcass. Internal examination revealed that the lungs, spleen and kidneys were unremarkable and other systems were not examined. The cause of death was not apparent and as poisoning cannot be ruled out, samples were taken for further analysis.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98137	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.7	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose

98137	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	2.0	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98137	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.6	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98137	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00018	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found, although there was a small residue of bromadiolone noted in the liver of this bird. The amount found is considered to be consistent with exposure, rather than the cause of death of the buzzard. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.