

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

34/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 34/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/21
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0080-05-15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION [REDACTED]
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN9353
INCIDENT DATE 5 May 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 13 August 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

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Samples received		Date received	Sample Identifier
98037	buzzard	19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0080-05-15, Spec no. 1
98037	buzzard tissues	19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0080-05-15, Spec no. 1

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found in a field. No obvious signs of injury were seen aside from some blood coming out of its mouth. There were no objects present at the location that it could have flown into and there were no other dead animals noted at the scene. Previously, another two dead buzzards have been noted in the past two months at the same location. The buzzard was found on an estate where a shooting syndicate has recently changed with different gamekeepers now present. The bird was collected from the informant by the Welsh Government before being passed to APHA for post mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A female buzzard weight 0.99 kgs with good body condition and a mild degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. There was a large amount of blood present around the mouth and nares. There was also a large amount of clotted blood on the right side of the peritoneal cavity surrounding the right lung and this extended to the base of the neck. A portion of grey /brown fur was present in the proventriculus and blood was present in the nasal chamber and turbinates. Clotted blood was also present in the trachea. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine and genital systems were not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98037	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0004	mg/kg
98037	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0054	mg/kg
98037	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.007	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Given the post-mortem findings, laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bromadiolone, brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of this buzzard. These results are consistent with exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides and their presence is unlikely to be the cause of death of this bird, which appears to be due to a significant traumatic injury.