

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



94/14

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 94/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/26
OTHER REFERENCES 26/M0661/11/14
SENDER VLA Shrewsbury
LOCATION [REDACTED] Holywell
Flintshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 30 October 2014
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 24 February 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 fox

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97814	fox	2/12/14	26-M0661-11-14 : PB1
97814	fox	2/12/14	26-M0661-11-14 : PB1
97815	buzzard	2/12/14	26-M0661-11-14 : PB2
97815	buzzard	2/12/14	26-M0661-11-14 : PB2

Summary of field data

A dead fox cub and buzzard were found. A farmer reported finding the fox cub and young buzzard dead in one of his fields. The finder contacted the police, as there were no visible injuries to either and he believed that they might have been poisoned. There was reported to be a similar incident a few years ago and the finder was also concerned that their dogs might be affected. The carcasses were collected by the police and delivered to APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

The carcasses of a fox and buzzard were delivered to the APHA VIC Shrewsbury. The carcasses had been frozen before submission. The fox was male, 4.88kg, in fair to good condition. Many fly eggs were present in the hair of the carcass and in the eye sockets. One large tick was present in the plastic bag. There were no external signs of damage. A small amount of subcutaneous fat was present. The fox had been well muscled. The gall bladder was distended with green bile. Fly eggs were present in the pharynx. The stomach contained approximately 40ml of dark brown to black fluid. No solid material was present. Similar dark brown/black fluid was present throughout the small intestinal tract and proximal large intestinal tract. The distal large intestine contained soft dark brown faeces. A small amount of pericardial fat was present. The eyes were sunken. Examination of the respiratory system, lymphoreticular system, urinary system and genital system was unremarkable. The buzzard was of unknown sex, 424g and poor body condition. The stomach and intestines were empty. Examination of the skin and subcutis, musculoskeletal system, peritoneal cavity, respiratory system, cardiovascular system, lymphoreticular system, endocrine system, urinary system, genital system and nervous system was unremarkable.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97814	stomach contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

97814	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.6	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

97814	liver	coumatetralyl	confirmed	0.0017	mg/kg
97814	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.01	mg/kg
97815	gizzard contents	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.0003	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this fox cub and buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found, although there were small residues of bromadiolone and coumatetralyl confirmed in the liver of the fox. The amounts found are consistent with exposure only and are not likely to be the cause of death of the fox. Given these results and the findings on post-mortem, it seems likely that the buzzard died from starvation. However, the cause of death of the fox remains uncertain.