



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 43/18
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/02
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0120/02/18

SENDER

LOCATION Penley, Wrexham
Flintshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ4134

INCIDENT DATE 8 February 2018

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma

DATE OF REPORT 17 July 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 badger

COPIED TO
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Summary of field data

A dead badger was found in suspicious circumstances. Arrangements were made for a post-mortem of the carcass at the APHA at Carmarthen. The carcass was in a bag labelled with a North Wales Police-seized property label dated 08.02.2018.

Summary of post mortem report

A female badger of weight 10.2 kg, good body condition and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was an oval shaped wound approximately 1 cm-1.5 cm on the left dorsal thorax approximately over vertebrae T5-7 with hair loss around the wound and dried blood in the hair. Dorsal to this there was a track where superficial skin was missing approximately 1.5 cm in length and a similar lesion was seen in a similar site over the right thorax. On the caudo-medial left upper hind leg, there was a small puncture wound with blood on the skin around the wound. There was a wound with sharp edges approximately in the umbilical region about 1.5 cm in length. On the right side there was an approximately circular wound about 1 cm in length on the caudo-ventral thorax with dried blood over the wound. At the right caudal thorax, there was a large approximately vertical wound with sharp edges, 3 cm in length and 2 cm wide through the skin and superficial muscle. There was much blood on the surrounding hair. In the left parotid region there are a small puncture wounds resembling bite wounds approximately 0.5 cm apart. There were fine blue fibres visible, caught in the teeth of the right cranial mouth. At the left caudal thigh, there was a skin wound 2 cm x 3 cm exposing underlying muscle. There was a circular skin wound, about 0.5 cm in diameter and just cranial to the thoracic inlet on the right side. There were puncture wounds resembling bite wounds on the mid-dorsal neck on the right side. The skin was reflected. There was extensive haemorrhage over the right thorax and two dorso-ventral wounds with associated haemorrhages were seen penetrating through the thoracic wall. One was at the right cranial thorax through the intercostal space. The other was at the right caudal thorax and there was a fracture of the rib associated with the wound with flat edges. The caudal thoracic wound appeared to be an extension of the wound of the right caudal thorax previously described. There was free blood in the thoracic cavity. The stomach contents had not totally thawed and there was ice and many earthworms visible. No other abnormalities were seen.

Conclusion

This report is for information only. Initially it was suspected that this badger had been poisoned. However, a post-mortem has revealed that the badger was in good bodily condition and appeared to have been eating earthworms shortly before it died. The puncture wounds noted might have been bite wounds and other lesions could be consistent with being caught in a snare. The cause of death appears to be from a penetrating wound caused by a sharp object. Therefore, no samples were forwarded to the Wildlife Incident Unit for laboratory tests.