WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 149/20

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 149/20

PART OF STUDY FSGD-211

REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/07

OTHER REFERENCES 28-M0090-10-20

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Bangor on Dee
Flintshire

GRID REFERENCE SJ3946

INCIDENT DATE 15 April 2020

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 12 January 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : .....[redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 fox

COPIED TO

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
100081	fox		29/10/20	28/M0090/10/20 : 1
100081	fox	tissues	29/10/20	28/M0090/10/20 : 1

Summary of field data

A dead badger was found on a footpath. The member of the public then found a dead fox in their outbuilding which is used as a log store. It was thought that the fox may have died a week ago. There were no obvious signs of injury to both of the animals and so the finder was concerned that they may have been poisoned. The find was reported to the Welsh Government and arrangements were made with the Police to collect the fox carcase and deliver it to the APHA. There were no shoots in the area, which is surrounded by agricultural land.

Summary of post mortem report

A male fox with the weight not recorded and in good body condition and a severe degree of autolysis. There was severe damage to the skin from a profuse number of maggots on and in this severely autolysed carcase. The perineum and anus were missing from maggots and possible scavenger damage. The tongue was missing from maggot activity. Hair was missing from the right face shoulder and thorax from autolysis and maggot activity. There was severe damage to the skin and subcutis from maggots; fly eggs and maggots ranging in size from small to large were present as were pupae throughout the carcase surface, but particularly the right face, right and left thorax, inguinal region and perineum. In all of these regions maggots breached the skin and extended in to the musculature. The stomach was empty, there were scant creamy red small intestinal contents. Most of the small intestinal tract and all of the large intestine were missing, likely scavenged through the damage described at the perineum. There were patchy dark red areas throughout the lung parenchyma consistent with congestion. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100081	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0092	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this fox had been poisoned, although a post-mortem examination revealed that it had not eaten recently. Therefore, laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of bromadiolone in the liver of this fox, but the amount found is consistent with background exposure only. There was no haemorrhage and no indication of trauma in the carcase and so the cause of death of this fox remains uncertain.

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