

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

22/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 22/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/06
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0069-02-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Caerphilly
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SJ1002
INCIDENT DATE 6 February 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 17 May 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100643	red kite	22/2/22	28/B0069/02/22
100643	red kite	22/2/22	28/B0069/02/22
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found on common land. The finder initially thought that the bird had been shot as there appeared to be a hole in its chest. Therefore, the carcass was recovered and it was reported to the Police. An examination at a private veterinary practice found no evidence of pellets within the carcass and it was reported to be an otherwise healthy male bird. The wound to the chest area may have occurred after death, possibly due to scavenging. There was a wound to the left wing, which may have been due to a shooting injury and appeared to have been sustained while the bird was alive. There is a road crossing the common land where the bird was found and the police are checking if there are overhead powerlines or cables nearby.

Summary of post mortem report

A male red kite that was not weighed and was in good bodily condition with severe autolysis was submitted for examination. There was a roughly circular wound on the ventral thorax and abdomen approximately 5x5cm, with irregular areas of pectoral musculature missing, and extension into the coelomic cavity. There was a wound over the ventral left wing at the level of the radius and ulna. This wound consisted of a deficit in skin extending approximately 10cm along the length of the radius and ulna, and approximately 5cm in width at the widest point proximally. There was reddening of the remaining skin in this region, and some dried blood close to the proximal radius. There was no damage to the skin on the dorsal side of the wing. There was damage to the skin over the ventral thorax and abdomen. The pectoral muscle was damaged on the left-hand side of the thorax with irregular areas missing (likely scavenged). There were muscle fragments attached to the radius of the left wing, with the majority of the muscle missing from this region. There was subcutaneous bruising over the caudal aspect of the skull. Approximately 2/3rds of the liver was missing (likely scavenged). There were large blood clots within the abdomen. The wall of the gizzard was damaged (likely scavenged), there was scant pale pink soft contents. The small intestines contained pale pink liquid contents. The large intestines contained green liquid contents. There were large blood clots throughout the lung tissue. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine and nervous systems were not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100643	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.016	mg/kg
100643	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.032	mg/kg
100643	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.036	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially, it was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned, although an examination found scavenging damage, an injury to the left wing, bruising over the skull and multiple blood clots within the abdominal and thoracic cavities. Therefore, 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 brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of this red kite. However, the amounts found are consistent with background exposure only and so the cause of death of this red kite is likely to be from a traumatic injury.

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