WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 94/21

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 94/21

PART OF STUDY FSGD-213

REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/18

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0063-05-21

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Llandrindod Wells
Radnorshire

GRID REFERENCE [redacted]

INCIDENT DATE 13 May 2021

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT chloralose abuse

DATE OF REPORT 10 December 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : ..... [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
100376	buzzard		26/5/21	15/B0063/05/21 : MAW/1
100376	buzzard	tissues	26/5/21	15/B0063/05/21 : MAW/1

Summary of field data

A wildlife trust contacted the Police rural crime team regarding a dead buzzard that they believe to have been poisoned. The case was reported to Welsh Government and a few days later arrangements were made to store the carcase in a freezer, until it could be transferred to the APHA for an examination.

Summary of post mortem report

A female buzzard of weight 1.13kg, fair body condition and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The external observations were unremarkable. The stomachs contained a large amount of macerated meat, feathers and bone. No abnormalities of the remaining body system were seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100376	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.006	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100376	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100376	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.011	mg/kg
100376	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.014	mg/kg
100376	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0075	mg/kg
100376	liver	chloralose	confirmed	5.9	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, particularly as there was evidence of recent feeding. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of chloralose in the liver of this buzzard and the amount found is significant and is likely to be the cause of it's death. However, there were also residues of bromadiolone, difenacoum, and brodifacoum detected and confirmed in the liver of the buzzard, but these are background exposure levels only. The source of exposure to chloralose for the buzzard is uncertain, but it is likely to be from the abuse of the pesticide via the preparation of an animal bait laced with chloralose.

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