

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

51/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 51/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/14
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0021-05-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Glynarthen, Penbryn
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN3149
INCIDENT DATE 11 April 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT brodifacoum
unspecified
DATE OF REPORT 15 August 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
100718	red kite	26/5/22	APHA: 28-B0021-05-22
100718	red kite	26/5/22	APHA: 28-B0021-05-22
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found on farmland in a field that was close to a Hotel. The bird was found by a local farmer, who initially believed that the bird may have been shot as there was blood on the breast. However, there was no gun shot wound noted and the mortality was reported to Welsh Government. The bird was collected by the Police and arrangements were made to transfer the carcass to the APHA. This red kite was only five miles from a previous case W/22/13 where a red kite was alive when found, but died before it could be collected (sample not sent to Fera for testing to date 28/B0023/04/22).

Summary of post mortem report

A red kite inside a clear bag sealed in a clear evidence bag, labelled R01583432 Exhibit no. JT/1, Property ref - BA/106848/22 Red Kite Bird was submitted for examination. The bird was a female in good body condition and with moderate autolysis. There was loss of feathers on the ventral breast to the vent. Two circular holes in the skin of about 2mm diameter were noted; one was distal to the keel to the right of the midline and the other in skin on the dorsum, medial to the left hip. There was a very large blood clot about 5cm diameter in the peritoneal cavity, caudal to the liver. A large blood clot about 3cm diameter adjacent to right kidney and small amount of free blood in the peritoneal cavity. The proventriculus and gizzard were empty and there were scant intestinal contents. The right kidney was dark red and haemorrhagic. A developing ova was present. Other organ systems examined were unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100718	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.22	mg/kg
100718	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.039	mg/kg
100718	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00038	mg/kg

Conclusion

This red kite was in good bodily condition, but it had not eaten recently. On examination there were two penetrating holes in the skin with likely fatal internal haemorrhage that was suggestive of being shot, although no pellets were detected in the carcass. Therefore, laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum and some difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this red kite. There were haemorrhagic findings reported on post-mortem, but with the skin defects this was considered to be suggestive of shot. However, this bird had not fed and the amount of brodifacoum present is usually associated with poisoning, although the difenacoum and bromadiolone residues are consistent with background exposure only. Therefore, although shooting may also have been a factor in the death of this red kite, the incident has been assigned to unspecified use. The source of the brodifacoum is uncertain at present, although it may be from a rodent control treatment.

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