



**WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT**

**INCIDENT NUMBER** 76/19  
**PART OF STUDY** FSGD-211  
**REGIONAL NUMBER** W/19/17  
**OTHER REFERENCES** 28/B0010/09/19  
**SENDER** VLA Carmarthen  
**LOCATION** Llanbradach, Caerphilly  
Glamorgan  
**GRID REFERENCE** ST1490  
**INCIDENT DATE** 1 July 2019  
**SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT** background residue  
**DATE OF REPORT** 2 December 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER** [REDACTED]  
**SIGNED :** [REDACTED]

**NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED**  
1 goshawk

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

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
99714	goshawk	11/9/19	APHA: 28-B0010-09-19
99714	goshawk tissues	11/9/19	APHA: 28-B0010-09-19

### Summary of field data

An ill goshawk was collected by the RSPCA and taken to a Wildlife Centre. The goshawk had been seen on the ground and being attacked by magpies. At the Wildlife Centre the goshawk initially appeared to be well and was eating, but an attempt to release the bird back to the wild was not successful. When arrangements were made to release the goshawk it would not get out of the cage and was breathing heavily. Therefore, it was taken back to the Centre, where it was given fluids and vitamin K, but it had a seizure and died. The Centre reported that they had had a similar experience to this with a buzzard and a vet had completed a post-mortem and found internal haemorrhaging. The case was reported to Welsh Government by the Wildlife Centre and arrangements were made to collect the goshawk carcass from frozen storage and deliver it to the APHA.

### Summary of post mortem report

A female goshawk, weight 783g, fair body condition and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird was received in a signed evidence bag SB30214379 and the signed part of the bag has been retained. The stomachs were full of food resembling chicks. The lungs were dark and congested. There were no abnormalities of the remaining body systems seen.

### Analysis : chloralose

99714	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.008	mg/kg
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### Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99714	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.00098	mg/kg
99714	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0024	mg/kg

### Conclusion

It was suspected that this goshawk had been poisoned and as this bird had survived at the Wildlife Centre for a while, testing for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only was completed on the submitted tissues. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of brodifacoum and difenacoum only in the liver of this bird. The amounts found are consistent with exposure only and are not likely to be the cause of the symptoms seen and subsequent death of this goshawk. Therefore, the cause of death of this goshawk remains uncertain.