

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

120/20



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 120/20
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/08
OTHER REFERENCES 28/M0055/05/20
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Pen y Cae
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN8414
INCIDENT DATE 21 April 2020
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT unknown
DATE OF REPORT 13 November 2020

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 badger
1 sample

COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100018	badger	25/8/20	28/M0055/05/20 : 1
100018	badger	25/8/20	28/M0055/05/20 : 1
100019	sample	25/8/20	28/M0055/05/20

Summary of field data

A dead badger was reported to a badger survey. Arrangements were made to collect the animal and the finder suggested that it had been poisoned and so the case was referred to Welsh Government. The badger was seen outside a sett entrance and there was a brown medicine bottle also noted behind a nearby fence. The fence is newly erected and the bottle had not been seen there previously. The badger may have been dead for about five days. There are no cattle in some of the fields, but there is one nearby field where cattle are grazed on the land during the spring/summer. These cattle are not owned by the owner of the field, but they are allowed to graze there. The badger was stored in a freezer until arrangements could be made to deliver it to the APHA, along with the brown bottle that appeared to be a calcium type medicine bottle.

Summary of post mortem report

A male badger was submitted with a paper tag attached. The weight was 8.5kg and it was in fair body condition with severe autolysis. Both eyes were missing, which was likely scavenger damage. There was a skin wound in the dorsal midline, at the level of the pelvis. The carcase was intact. An irregularly shaped skin wound measuring approximately 8.5cm by 4cm was present over the dorsal midline, overlying the pelvis/sacrum. The wound surface was dark brown/black and grossly contaminated. On incision, there was underlying white/red firm tissue with some white streaks going deeper into the underlying subcutaneous and muscle tissue. The hair surrounding the wound was very short, over an area approximately 15cm in diameter. There was approximately 40ml of dark brown stomach content, consisting of multiple 2-4cm long pieces of fibrous/filamentous material and semi-liquid content. Further abnormalities were not detected on examination of the remaining body systems; the endocrine and nervous systems were not examined.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100018	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100018	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100018	liver	no rodenticide & chloralose detected	detection limit	0.002	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this badger had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found. There was a large, non-healed, skin wound that may be a bite wound and it was close to the base of the tail. However, this was not considered life-threatening and so the cause of death of this badger remains uncertain. The brown glass bottle may be a calcium type medicine bottle, but some further tests will be undertaken on it and a revised report issued if any residues are found.

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