WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 87/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER	87/19
PART OF STUDY	FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER	W/19/20
OTHER REFERENCES	28/B0002/10/19
SENDER	VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION	Ruthin Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE	SJ1552
INCIDENT DATE	12 September 2019
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT	mixture of carbamates abuse
DATE OF REPORT	19 December 2019

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : ..... [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99756	red kite		9/10/19	APHA: 28-B0002-10-19
99756	red kite	tissues	9/10/19	APHA: 28-B0002-10-19

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found by a game keeper around an electric fence placed around a pheasant pen. The game keeper didn't think the bird had died naturally since there was some evidence of injury. The bird was collected by the game keeper and frozen immediately. The incident was reported to the police who contacted Welsh government and arranged to get the carcase to the APHA for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A red kite, sex not recorded and weight 907g in a fair body condition and mild autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was an approximately 10cm by 5 cm area of skin damage and feather loss over the dorsum and the left femur area and this may have been the result of scavenging. The oropharynx and oesophagus was very full of muscle, bone, intestine and small black feathers. There was similar content in the proventriculus and gizzard (approximately 80ml in total). There were no abnormalities of the remaining body systems seen.

Analysis : chloralose

99756	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.006	mg/kg

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99756	stomach contents	carbosulfan	confirmed	1.1	mg/kg
99756	stomach contents	carbofuran	confirmed	13	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99756	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.8	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99756	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.0004	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of carbofuran and carbosulfan in the gizzard content of this red kite, which appeared to consist of semi-digested meat and feathers. Therefore, the cause of death of this red kite appears to be from exposure to a carbamate pesticide, possibly carbosulfan, as carbofuran can be a metabolite of carbosulfan (carbofuran can also be a metabolite from furathiocarb and benfuracarb). It should also be noted that there were no residues of anticoagulant rodenticides found in the liver of this red kite. Given these results it appears that a carbamate product, such as carbosulfan, has been illegally used and although the bait material used is uncertain it may have been a bird bait.

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