WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 101/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 101/19

PART OF STUDY FSGD-211

REGIONAL NUMBER W/19/23

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0092-12-19

SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION Brecon
Powys

GRID REFERENCE SN9733

INCIDENT DATE 9 December 2019

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT diazinon
veterinary use

DATE OF REPORT 12 March 2020

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 raven

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99789	raven		20/12/19	28/B0092-12-19;
99789	raven	tissues	20/12/19	28/B0092-12-19;

Summary of field data

A dead raven was found tied to a fence. The bird was reported to have a chemical smell and this made the reporter concerned that it might be a poison bait to kill birds of prey. A buzzard was reported to be sitting next to the raven and trying to feed from it. The reporter collected the bird and reported the incident to the RSPB who advised him to contact the Welsh Government. The raven was collected and although it appeared to have been shot it was sent to the APHA for an examination. The incident occurred on a minor road.

Summary of post mortem report

A raven that weighed 1190g (in bag) in a fair body condition and a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. There was blood on the skin and feathers. There were numerous circular wounds in the skin, some pinhead and some much larger, mainly over the left side. There were multiple fractures of the left ribs and four pieces of metal resembling shotgun pellets were found at this site. There were multiple fractures of the left femur, left humerus, left pelvis and the spinal cord in the lumbar region. There was haemorrhage associated with the fractures. The stomachs contained light yellow pasty content. There was a blood clot in the thoracic cavity. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen. The metal pellets have been retained. The raven was in fair condition when it died and had been shot. It appeared to have recently eaten a pasty substance. Digital images of the stomach contents were taken.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99789	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.008	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99789	stomach contents	diazinon	confirmed	22	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99789	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0029	mg/kg

Conclusion

Samples from this raven were submitted for testing, due to the smell noted, although it appeared that this raven had been shot. Laboratory analysis for a range of pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of brodifacoum in the liver of the raven, which is consistent with exposure only. There was also a confirmed residue of diazinon in the stomach contents of the raven, which consisted of beige colour porridge-like material, some feathers and a small piece of semi-digested meat. Given the post-mortem findings this bird had been shot, but the field information and analytical results suggest that it may also have been intentionally contaminated with diazinon. As this is a veterinary use chemical this incident has been assigned to veterinary use, although illegal use is suspected.

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