WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 27/24

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 27/24

PART OF STUDY WIIS23

REGIONAL NUMBER W/24/05

OTHER REFERENCES 28-M0051-03-24

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Brecon
Brecknockshire

GRID REFERENCE SO0028

INCIDENT DATE 1 March 2024

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 3 June 2024

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 otter

COPIED TO

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
101304	otter		22/3/24	APHA ref: 28-M0051-03-24
101304	otter	tissues	22/3/24	APHA ref: 28-M0051-03-24

Summary of field data

An otter was found dead in a woodland near to a river. Although there is a road nearby, the carcase was found some distance from the road, therefore cause death was not thought to be from a road traffic accident. When it was found, the otter carcase was partially decomposed with maggots present. The incident was reported to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) who collected and stored the carcase, which was then transported to the veterinary labs for post-mortem. This is a rural area, near to a river, surrounded by arable and cattle farmland. There are several residential properties and some farm buildings nearby.

Summary of post mortem report

One female otter of unknown weight with very severe autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. The otter measured 64cm in length from head to anus, and 103cm from head to the tip of its tail. The stomach content was a dark brown liquid. The otter carcase was not suitable for diagnostic postmortem examination due to the very severe degree of autolysis.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101304	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0028	mg/kg
101304	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.016	mg/kg
101304	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0019	mg/kg
101304	liver	flocoumafen	confirmed	0.00047	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this otter had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and anti-coagulant rodenticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of flocoumafen, difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this otter. However, the amounts found are likely consistent with exposure levels only and will not have contributed to death of this otter. Therefore, the cause of death of this otter remains uncertain.

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