WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 2/25

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 2/25

PART OF STUDY WIIS25

REGIONAL NUMBER W/24/29

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0064-12-24

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Dinas Powys
Glamorgan

GRID REFERENCE ST1371

INCIDENT DATE 12 December 2024

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 2 April 2025

REPORT [redacted]

SIGNED [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 common buzzard

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
101666	common buzzard		6/1/25	APHA REF: 28-B0064-12-24
101666	common buzzard	tissues	6/1/25	APHA REF: 28-B0064-12-24

Summary of field data

A buzzard was found dead on the side of a road by a member of the public. The previous day, a buzzard, thought to be the same buzzard, was seen in a nearby hedge. The incident was reported to the police and the carcase collected. This is a rural area surrounded by small pockets of woodland and arable farmland with associated farm buildings. There are villages nearby with residential properties.

Summary of post mortem report

One common buzzard of unknown sex and weight in poor condition with severe autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. Brain, cloacal and oro-pharyngeal swabs were taken for AI testing, no Influenza A viral RNA was detected. There was a compound fracture of the left, mid femur, with no haemorrhage of the surrounding tissue. Chunks of pale meat were found in the mouth and down the oesophagus. The gizzard contained almost black, soft content with grit present and many 3-5cm long dark, firm, unbreakable strands. The intestines contained pasty content. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. This adult common buzzard was in poor condition. It had recently fed on what appeared to be chicken breast meat which was still present within the mouth and oesophagus. The multiple 'strands' found within the gizzard were deemed most likely to be plastic in origin. It is not clear from gross postmortem examination if these strands were impacting passage of ingesta; whilst no chicken breast meat was found within the gizzard it is not possibly to say how rapidly death occurred post ingesting this. Content was found throughout the intestines. The fracture of the femur showed no signs of surrounding tissue trauma, which would be expected had this happened in life and therefore it is suspected this has occurred postmortem. It is not possible from gross postmortem examination to confirm the exact cause of death of this buzzard.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

101666	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

101666	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101666	liver	difethialone	confirmed	0.0075	mg/kg
101666	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.00063	mg/kg
101666	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0084	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, given that it was found with meat in the mouth and oesophagus. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples, including a range of compounds from the organophosphorus, carbamate and rodenticide groups. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of difethialone, difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this buzzard. However, the amounts found are consistent with exposure levels only and is not considered to be the cause of death of the buzzard. Post-mortem examination indicated meat in the mouth and oesophagus, but observed strands of material, thought be plastic in origin, in the gizzard. It was considered possible that these may have impacted the passage of ingesta, but this could not be determined from the postmortem. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains unknown.