

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

89/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 89/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/29
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0019-10-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Pentrebach, Talybont
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN6490
INCIDENT DATE 21 September 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 19 December 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 barn owl

COPIED TO



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Samples received

Samples received	Date received	Sample identifier
100820 barn owl	20/10/22	28/B0019/10/22
100820 barn owl tissues	20/10/22	28/B0019/10/22

Summary of field data

A barn owl was found dead in a field by a member of the public with no sign of injury. The finder collected the carcass, reported the find to Welsh Government and stored it in a freezer until it could be collected. The carcass was then transported to the APHA for an examination.

Summary of post mortem report

A barn owl was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. The sex was unknown, weighing 0.33 kg in fair condition with moderate autolysis. There was a large area of subcutaneous haemorrhage over the right eye and over the right-hand side of the skull. The proventriculus and gizzard were empty. The turbinates were reddened around the right eye socket.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100820	stomach	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	mg.kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100820	stomach	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	3	mg.kg
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Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100820	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.081	mg.kg
100820	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0086	mg.kg
100820	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0094	mg.kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this barn owl had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this barn owl, but these results are more likely consistent with exposure levels only and are not likely to be the cause of death. There were some trauma injuries noted, but it was not possible to determine if these were the cause of death of the barn owl. Therefore, the cause of death of this barn owl remains uncertain.

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