

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

104/12



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 104/12

PART OF STUDY FSGD-170

REGIONAL NUMBER W/12/16

OTHER REFERENCES

SENDER WAG

LOCATION Dwyran
Anglesey

GRID REFERENCE SH4464

INCIDENT DATE 4 September 2012

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT metaldehyde
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 10 December 2012

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

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NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 goose carcase (bait?)
1 dog

COPIED TO

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: wis@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Sand Hutton, York
YO41 1LZ, UK

Tel +44 (0)1904 462 000
Fax +44 (0)1904 462 111

E-mail info@fera.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/fera



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WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Samples received	Date received	Sample identifier
96088 goose carcase (bait?)	27/9/12	Spec ref: W/12/16/1

Summary of field data

A goose carcase was found near a farm, by a dog. The dog started to chew on the carcase and the owner removed and examined the carcase; the breast appeared to be cut open and there appeared to be some white substance present. About an hour and a half later the dog started to pant and then within another hour it was having a fit and it was taken to a private veterinary surgeon for treatment. The dog was put on a drip and appeared to have recovered by the following day, the vet thought that poisoning might have occurred. The dog owner returned to the area and collected the goose carcase, which was stored at the vet practice until it could be collected.

Summary of post mortem report

The dog recovered following veterinary treatment.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

96088	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.4	µg
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Analysis : metaldehyde

96088	metaldehyde	confirmed	410	mg
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Analysis : strychnine

96088	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.07	µg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this goose carcase was a poisoned bait. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted sample. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of metaldehyde from the carcase, although there were no obvious signs of the usual coloured pellet metaldehyde formulations on it. The dog recovered following treatment, but the symptoms shown may be consistent with metaldehyde exposure. It appears that a goose carcase has been intentionally laced with metaldehyde, which is an abuse of the pesticide.