

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



31/14

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 31/14
PART OF STUDY FSGD-195
REGIONAL NUMBER W/14/08
OTHER REFERENCES 28-M0072-05-14
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llangynog
Montgomeryshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ0226
INCIDENT DATE 1 May 2014
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT aldicarb
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 22 May 2014

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
lurcher dog

COPIED TO

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
97458	lurcher dog	16/5/14	VLA: 28-M0072-05-14
97458	lurcher dog	tissues	16/5/14
			VLA: 28-M0072-05-14

Summary of field data

One dog died after being walked on a mountain. The owner walked the dog along with two other dogs that were unaffected. The dog that died was in the habit of ranging further than the other two dogs. At one point during the walk the dog had returned to the owner with a dirty mouth. Shortly afterward the dog started frothing at the mouth, was unsteady on its feet fitted and died within minutes. The owner buried the dog, but later became suspicious that the dog had been poisoned. Since the incident birds of prey regularly seen in the area - notably a pair of red kites and a buzzard - have not been seen. The dog owner exhumed the dog, which was collected by WAG for transportation to the AHVLA. There was a pesticide incident involving aldicarb in the area in the previous year (24/13 refers). The incident occurred on a mountain. There is sheep farming and game rearing in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

One adult male dog weighing 24kgs was submitted for post mortem. The dog was in good condition and had undergone a moderate degree of autolysis. On external examination the tip of the tongue was out of the mouth, the surface had sloughed. In the skin and subcutis there were cutaneous haemorrhages present on the ventral abdomen and subcutaneous haemorrhages over the ribs of the right side and between the rami of the mandibles. In the alimentary system the stomach was full of dark feathers and the foot of a bird. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality but the endocrine, genital and nervous systems were not examined.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

97458	aldicarb	confirmed	4.5	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this dog had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range carbamate pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of aldicarb in the stomach content of the dog and the amount found is likely to account for the death of it. The source of the aldicarb is uncertain, but abuse of the pesticide is suspected.