Incidents Involving Pesticides and Animals
FREEPHONE 0800 321 600

Defra field inquiry.
This leaflet explains an important scheme where the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) aims to identify any unexpected effects of pesticides (in the environment) on animals. It helps Defra to take measures to minimise the risks of such incidents re-occurring. The scheme helps to keep the use of pesticides, in the country and town safe for you, your pets and wildlife.

We Need Your Help

Please report to us:

• any animals you suspect may have been poisoned by pesticides;
• any spillage of pesticides;
• or any possible poisonous baits.

The scheme is concerned with animal casualties as a result of both correct or incorrect use of pesticides.

To report an incident

FREEPHONE 0800 321 600

(24 hour service, answer-machine out of office hours)

Information You Should Provide

• the location of the incident;
• the number and type of casualties or suspected baits;
• why you believe pesticides are involved;
• your name and a daytime telephone number.

Honeybees

Incidents involving bees should be reported to:
The National Bee Unit, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, YORK.
(Tel. 01904 462240)

(left) Most incidents, such as the death of this sparrowhawk, are reported to us by the public.
How the Scheme Works

Notification of Incident
(freephone 0800 321 600)

Field Inquiry
to collect samples & information

Post-mortem Examination
to check for non-pesticide related deaths

Pesticide Analysis
aims to confirm if a pesticide is involved

Results
Review of the Pesticide | Advisory Letter | Enforcement Action
Details of the Scheme

Notification of an incident to Defra on freephone 0800 321 600. This is usually by members of the public including, farmers, dog walkers, gamekeepers, ramblers, pet owners and householders. If out of office hours a message can be left on the answer-machine. A Wildlife Adviser will contact you as soon as possible. Remember to leave your name and daytime telephone number.

Field inquiries of accepted incidents are carried out by a Defra Wildlife Adviser who will visit the area and collect any animal carcasses, samples of pesticides and relevant information. Where appropriate this may involve other organisations.

Examination of dead animals by a Defra Veterinary Officer aims to establish the cause of death. Incidents involving animals which have died of non-pesticide causes such as, disease, shooting, starvation, physical injury etc., will not be taken further.

Pesticide analysis will be carried out by a specialist unit at the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) of Defra to try to identify and interpret the significance of any pesticides involved.

Results gathered at all stages are considered by Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) of Defra who will decide if the incident was the result of the proper approved use, the careless misuse or the deliberate unlawful abuse of a pesticide. PSD will then decide on the action to be taken. A variety of actions are available to PSD including offering advice on safe use, enforcement action, reviewing the conditions of use of a pesticide or withdrawing it from use altogether.

Pesticides were found to have killed this buzzard.
AVOID CONTACT WITH ANIMAL CARCASSES, SUSPECT BAITS, PESTICIDES OR PESTICIDE CONTAINERS. Where it is safe to do so, cover dead animals, baits, or pesticides.

NEVER UNBLOCK A BADGER SETT OR FOX EARTH WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN GASED. These situations are extremely dangerous.

ALWAYS SEEK IMMEDIATE VETERINARY ADVICE IF YOU SUSPECT ANY PETS OR OTHER ANIMALS HAVE BEEN POISONED.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS WHEN USING PESTICIDES. Animals die each year due to the careless use of pesticides in the countryside, towns and private gardens. Remember that all pesticides pose a risk to animals if they are not used in strict accordance with the label instructions.

NEVER PUT YOURSELF OR OTHERS AT RISK
Contact Addresses

**Pesticides Safety Directorate**
Mallard House
King’s Pool
3 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 2PX
01904 455739
e-mail: p.s.d.wiis@psd.defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.pesticides.gov.uk

**Wildlife Incident Unit**
Central Science Laboratory
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ
01904 462456
e-mail: wiis@csl.gov.uk
www.csl.gov.uk

**Rural Development Service**
**Wildlife Administration Unit**
Defra
Burghill Road
Westbury on Trym
Bristol
BS10 6NJ
0800 321 600
e-mail: bristol.wildlife@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/
vertebrates/

**National Beekeeping Unit**
Central Science Laboratory
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ
01904 462240
e-mail: nbu@csl.gov.uk
www.csl.gov.uk