

Incidents Involving Pesticides & Animals

***Freephone* 0800 321 600**

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)



Freephone 0800 321 600



Risks to Animals from Pesticides

This leaflet explains an important government initiative called the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme which aims to identify harmful effects of pesticides on animals. The Scheme helps to safeguard wildlife and pets in both the town and countryside.

The Scheme is concerned with incidents resulting from both the correct or incorrect use of pesticides and most of these are reported by members of the public.

How You Can Help

Report:

- All animals suspected to have been poisoned by pesticides
- Any spillages of pesticide such as granules or pellets
- Possible poisonous baits
- Suspected poisoning of bees



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

Freephone 0800 321 600

How the scheme works

Notification and acceptance of incident

(FREEPHONE 0800 321 600)



Field inquiry

to collect samples and information



Post-mortem examination

to help establish cause of death



Pesticide analysis

to confirm if a pesticide is involved



Results

Review of the pesticide

| Provide advice

| Enforcement action

Details of scheme

Notification of an incident to freephone 0800 321 600. This is usually by members of the public including, farmers, dog walkers, gamekeepers, rambles, pet owners and householders. If out of office hours a message can be left on the answer machine. A Natural England 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 Wildlife Adviser who will normally 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 the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency aims to establish the cause of death. Incidents involving animals which have died of non-pesticide causes such as, disease, starvation, physical injury etc., will not be taken further.

Pesticide Analysis will be carried out by a specialist unit at the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) to identify and interpret the significance of any pesticides found.



Results are considered by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the HSE who will determine if proper approved use, careless misuse or deliberate, illegal abuse of a pesticide is involved and then decide if any action should be taken.

If appropriate, there are a number of options that can be considered including advising on safe use, taking enforcement measures or if necessary, changing the conditions of use of a pesticide.

Freephone 0800 321 600

Safety Concerns

Do not handle animal casualties, 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 gassed. These situations are extremely dangerous and require a specialist response.

Always seek immediate veterinary assistance for your pets or other animals if you suspect that they have been poisoned.

Always read and follow all the label instructions when storing and using pesticides. Each year, animals are poisoned due to the careless use of pesticides in the countryside, towns and private gardens. Remember that all pesticides pose a risk if they are not used in accordance with the label instructions.

Out of date products must be disposed of safely. Always keep pesticides in their original containers; these must not be decanted.



Badger sett investigation



A decanted banned pesticide

Unsafe storage of a banned pesticide



Pesticides stored for illegal uses



Poor disposal of containers



Bird carcass used as a poisoned bait



Freephone 0800 321 600

Organisations and Contacts

Natural England Wildlife Management

First Floor
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6EB
0800 321600
email: wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk
www.naturalengland.org.uk

HSE/CRD

Mallard House
Kings Pool
3 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX
01904 455775
email: pesticides@hse.gsi.gov.uk
www.pesticides.gov.uk

The Food and Environment Research Agency

Wildlife Incident Unit
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ
01904 462456
email: wiiis@fera.gsi.gov.uk
www.fera.defra.gov.uk/wildlife/wiu.cfm

The Food and Environment Research Agency

National Bee Unit
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ
01904 462510
email: nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk
www.nationalbeeunit.com

The Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime is a multi-agency body comprising representatives of the organisations involved in the work against wildlife crime.

Natural England is a government partner organisation.



www.defra.gov.uk/paw

