

26/NG

APHA Ref. No. 26-B0243-04-19

Email: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Sender's Ref.	Not Given
Previous Ref	Not Given
Owner	N/A
CPHH	N/A
Date Received	30/04/2019
Date of Sampling	30/04/2019
Case contact	Vikki Allwood
Species / Breed	Swan / Mute Swan
Sex / Age	Female / Adult
Samples	Animal Presented Dead x 1
Sub. Reason	Diagnostic Casework

REPORT 8 (FINAL)

LABORATORY FINDINGS

Botulism toxin ELISA testing ‡

The small intestine sample tested positive for *Clostridium botulinum* 'C/D' toxin.

COMMENTS

Extensive testing has been carried out on this swan carcass. It was from a lake where there has been ongoing mortality with birds either being found dead or typically showing signs of weakness before death. This bird had been in relatively good bodily condition but not recently feeding and we have not found evidence of avian influenza, West Nile virus, duck virus enteritis, lead toxicity, or significant bacteriological or parasitological infection. Histopathology has shown limited, likely localised, changes in the trachea and evidence of avian schistosomiasis which usually does not result in any clinical signs.

Testing of small intestinal contents for the toxin of *Clostridium botulinum* was positive and this finding together with the clinical signs described and lack of other significant disease processes is consistent with avian botulism as we have discussed. I would be interested to know again about the present situation on the lake and, although advice has previously been given about control of botulism, I include again a link to our information and recommendations about avian botulism in wild waterfowl.

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/diseases/avian-botulism.pdf>

[REDACTED] BVSc MSc MRCVS
Veterinary Investigation Officer
9 July 2019

No charges applied

‡ - Test subcontracted; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.
† - Not UKAS accredited; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.
§ - Accredited under Flexible Scope.
For further details of the test methods used, and other terms and conditions, please refer to the APHA Website.