

## **Statement to the Police.**

### **The poisoning of 3 dogs in Pumeras leading to the death of one dog.**

From Professor Peter Littlejohns and Tercia West

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Dear Sir

We wish to report the death of our dog Duci on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April due to poisoning. The toxic substance has been confirmed by a Veterinary Laboratory in Lyon as being Aldicarb which is a carbamate insecticide ( we attach the reports). Its use is banned in France but there has been a recent controversy regarding its continuing production and exporting in France (see appendix 1 for more details)

#### **A description of the circumstances**

We had been walking on the track next to the junior school in Puymeras on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April towards the Vallat Gourses de Jacques with our 2 dogs Duci and Ceci. They are twin cross Bichon, Bretagne Spaniel bitches. Duci ran into the grass near a small olive grove next to the junior school. In a few moments she returned and walked for a while and then collapsed just after the second house on the right as you descend the hill. She was shaking and non-responsive and then started foaming at the mouth. The sudden onset made us think that she might have eaten something toxic and I tried to make her vomit. We carried her home and went in the car to the veterinary clinic in Vaison but she died in my wife's arms on the way. The time from first signs to death was about 30 minutes. The following day we returned to the vet who undertook an autopsy (Address: 65 Av. de Saint-Quenin, 84110 Vaison-la-Romaine phone number 04 90 3 19 29). She found small bones and black substance in the stomach, and combined with the video recording I had made of Duci just 20 minutes before she died, believed that Duci had eaten the remains of a small animal that had died from a toxic substance and this had also been poisonous to Duci and led to her death.

We sent off the stomach contents to a Laboratory in Lyon for further analysis and have since been in email exchange with Professor Philippe Berny , Pharmacy-Toxicology Professor at the VetAgro Sup Lyon Veterinary Campus 1 Avenue Bourgelat F-69280 Marcy l'étoile. The laboratory findings came back and the report confirms that Duci had died from ingesting a

toxic substance. Duci's stomach contents tested positive for high doses of Aldicarb which is a carbamate insecticide. It is effective against a range of insects but is primarily used as a nematicide. As mentioned above it is a banned substance in France.

The vet suggested that we should inform the police that there is poison in the area where Duci was. We also found out that two other dogs who had undertaken the same walk on the same day in the village had also become ill. They needed veterinary assistance but both recovered. One was owned by the waitress of the local restaurant – Girocedre in Puymeras. The other dog is owned by a lady who lives at number 1 Place de la Marie, Puymeras. Her veterinary was the same as ours. They fully support our submission to the police and public prosecutor.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> April we had a meeting with the Mayor Roger Trappo who informed us that the Boulangerie in Puymeras (100 metres from the school) had had a rodent infestation and they had commissioned Frederic Vianez (Vianet Services, Mob:06 88 65 25 89 [contact@vianetservices.fr](mailto:contact@vianetservices.fr)) to deal with it. The mayor talked to him on the phone and they thought that it was unlikely to be connected with Duci's demise. Later that week Mr Vianez called at our house to inquire whether we had the results of the tests from the laboratory (which we had not). He also suggested that we contact the police as he felt that dogs in other villages were dying after eating poison.

We think that there are 3 likely causes of Duci's death

1. Aldicarb was used illegally as an insecticide in the vicinity of Puymeras which contaminated and killed a small animal in a field which Duci then ate.
2. Aldicarb was used as an illegal rodent exterminator either intentionally or unknowingly (for example people had old containers in their sheds) and Duci had eaten part of a rat that had died (or been dumped) next to the school
3. Aldicarb was used intentionally in a bait to deliberately kill dogs. We are aware of this happening in March of this year in South East and is now being investigated by the Public Prosecutor in Nimes.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/13/poisoned-meatballs-blamed-for-dog-deaths-at-french-canicross-race>

We are informing the police and will also inform the Public Prosecutor as we are very keen that this illegal substance should no longer be used or be available in France. A dog dying is bad enough but what if a child was playing in such a contaminated area? There are reports of people being poisoned in France. [2157118X.6.1.0820.indd \(xxyy.info\)](#)

Yours sincerely

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## Appendix 1

The use of Aldicarb is banned in many countries including France but there has been a recent controversy reported in Le Monde. France became the first country in Europe to ban the export of insecticides containing banned substances which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022. However, almost a year after the law came into force, it continues to export banned pesticides on a massive scale. The legal loophole is that the ban applies to the export of insecticides containing Aldicarb and not the chemical itself. So it is this type of “pure” substance that is manufactured and exported to other countries. (See Le Monde article here :

[https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2022/12/01/france-continues-to-export-ultra-toxic-pesticides-despite-ban\\_6006246\\_114.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2022/12/01/france-continues-to-export-ultra-toxic-pesticides-despite-ban_6006246_114.html).)

The article was referring to a report prepared by an “Unearthed” (Green Peace) and “Public Eye” investigation (can be read here [France still exporting prohibited pesticides, despite landmark ban - Unearthed \(greenpeace.org\)](https://www.greenpeace.org/unearthed/fr/fr/actualites/france-still-exporting-prohibited-pesticides-despite-landmark-ban)) they also found that some multinational agrochemical companies have shifted some banned chemical exports to other EU countries, apparently in response to the French ban. Other EU countries are considering their own bans after plans for an EU-wide ban were thrown into jeopardy. The European Commission had promised to present proposals in 2023 to end all banned chemical exports from the EU. [European Commission to end exports of banned chemicals to poorer countries - Unearthed \(greenpeace.org\)](https://www.greenpeace.org/unearthed/fr/fr/actualites/european-commission-to-end-exports-of-banned-chemicals-to-poorer-countries) However, the plan was dropped from the Commission’s work plan for 2023 at a late stage, under apparent pressure from the chemicals lobby

[https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2022/10/20/the-chemical-industry-lobbies-have-won-european-commission-buries-plan-to-ban-toxic-substances\\_6001086\\_114.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/environment/article/2022/10/20/the-chemical-industry-lobbies-have-won-european-commission-buries-plan-to-ban-toxic-substances_6001086_114.html)

Aldicarb is also used as an illegal rodent poison ( see here a report from the USA

<http://npic.orst.edu/ingred/ptype/illegal/trespasitos.html> and people as well as pets can die from ingesting it. See French reports here [2157118X.6.1.0820.indd \(xxyy.info\)](https://www.inrae.fr/fr/actualites/2157118X.6.1.0820.indd). In South Africa it is used by burglars to kill guard dogs

<https://roodepoortrecord.co.za/2016/03/10/confidential-report-on-temic/>