Calderdale Badger Protection Group

RTA Guidance Sheet

Aims:

- ASSESS WHETHER DEAD/ALIVE
- CHECK WHETHER LACTATING FEMALE
- CHECK FOR SUSPICIOUS CAUSE OF DEATH

INITIAL INFORMATION:

RTA information is received by the Badger Hotline, hotline holder responds to the reporter, and posts on the Hotline WhatsApp Group. A CBPG member agrees to go out to assess the badger. Restrict comments on WhatsApp Group to essential information only.

- Get as much detail as possible on location, check on google maps before you go, get a contact number for the reporter if possible.
- **The group must ensure that someone experienced is available to go with a new responder.**

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE:

- Latex/nitrile gloves (at least 2 pairs for each responder)
- Antiseptic Handrub
- Torch if dark (head torch preferable)
- High viz vest
- Charged phone to record location and take photos, and in case further info is needed/advice required.
- Poking stick (any stick approx. 2-3 foot minimum)

WHAT TO DO:

- **Locate the badger**, park safely, put on high viz vest, use a warning triangle if needed. Prioritise the safety of yourself and others first.
- **Note exact location** – either What3Words, GPS, Google Maps or on the Calderdale App.
- **Put on latex/nitrile gloves.**
- **Approach with caution!**

Check if dead/alive:

- Check if the ribcage is moving, watch for signs of movement/breathing.
- If none, then check if any reaction by prodding with a stick starting at either end but making sure that the head is checked by gently stroking round mouth and move stick past eyes and face.
- Do pupils respond to torch light (you can use the torch on your phone)?

- Does badger respond to pinching rear foot?
- Is the badger warm to touch, is it stiff (rigor mortis)?

If any signs of life – Remove gloves and CALL BADGER HOTLINE 07894 497544, seek urgent advice.

If dead:

- Check for signs of injury – turn the badger over.
- Check for signs of lactation – swollen teats, sometimes with bare areas around teats.
- Check for sex if possible.
- Guestimate age – check teeth (sharp, blunt, missing), size of animal.
- Remove gloves to take photos.

If any signs of suspicious death (bite marks to face, mauling, gunshot, snaring), remove gloves, CALL 101 and report badger crime, for the attention of the Wildlife Crime Officer. Do not move the body unless instructed to do so. Inform BADGER HOTLINE.

What to do with the body:

If not safe to move or nowhere nearby obvious to move body to, contact council to remove (details under DEAD ANIMALS on Calderdale Council website).

If you are moving the badger, the aim is to let nature take its course, for the badger to decompose, without being seen by humans. Only do this if there is somewhere with undergrowth that is close to where the badger was killed, and away from public view.

DO NOT:

- Move the badger in your vehicle.
- Place onto grazing land or private land.

IF IN DOUBT ABOUT WHERE TO PUT THE BODY, LEAVE IT AND CONTACT THE COUNCIL.

Remove gloves and use antiseptic handrub before leaving.

ONCE HOME:

- Wash hands thoroughly!
- Add note to Hotline WhatsApp Group that badger has been checked/ any actions.
- Report badger to council if removal needed: www.calderdale.gov.uk , look for 'dead animal' fill in online form.
- Report RTA to Calderdale Badger Group for input on our local app
- Report RTA on Badger Trust website: www.badgertrust.org, click 'report' button on website, report as 'Calderdale Badger Group' to avoid the report getting reported back to us again as a new RTA!