

Police arrest snake...



Lothian and Borders Police took an unusual prisoner into custody yesterday when they recovered a snake in the West of Edinburgh.

Officers were on routine duties in Hailesland Grove around 9.15am when they heard a number of children screaming.

Further enquiry revealed that a Cornsnake had escaped and police responded swiftly to catch the animal. After a short time, two officers successfully lured the snake into a kit bag and it was taken to the SSPCA re-homing centre in Balerno to be cared for.

Staff have named him Jalapeno, as he has a fiery character.

Enquiries are ongoing to trace his owner, who is asked to come forward.

Superintendent Dougie Lynch said: "We are used to dealing with a lot of slippery characters but a snake is certainly one of the most difficult captures we've had in recent times.

"Thankfully, the officers in attendance proved to be real charmers and the animal was safely caught in a kit bag before being handed over to the SSPCA.

"Anyone who believes their Cornsnake has gone missing should contact police or SSPCA immediately."

Centre Manager Diane Stewart said, "Jalapeno was very thin and dehydrated on arrival, suggesting he's been roaming on his own for some time.

"Snakes need heat to survive so he's lucky to be alive after being found outdoors in freezing temperatures.

“He seems a bit brighter after a night warming up in a vivarium on a heat mat so we hope he’ll continue to improve.

Anyone who recognises

Jalapeno should contact our Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999.”