Cats sealed inside cardboard box in Bathgate

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The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after three cats were abandoned inside a sealed cardboard box in West Lothian.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Saturday (25 October) after the pets were discovered outside The Spinney Boarding Kennels in Bathgate.

The cats are now in the care of the Scottish SPCA's Edinburgh and Lothians Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Balerno.

Inspector June Chalcroft said, "Worryingly, the box had been taped shut and if the cats hadn't been discovered quickly they could have come to harm.

"There was a note inside the box stating the owners had possibly abandoned the cats after moving away.

"There is a tabby female, a tabby male and a black and white female and they are all lovely.

"If anyone in the area recognises them and can help us establish who owned them we would urge them to contact us as soon as possible.

"We'll care for these cats until we can find them a loving new home."

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and anyone found guilty of doing so can expect to be banned from keeping animals for a fixed period or life.

Anyone with information is being urged to contact the Scottish SPCA Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999.