

# Badly burned snake found in East Lothian



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a snake suffering from severe burns was found in East Lothian.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Monday when the five foot long royal python was discovered by a man walking his dogs in woodland near the Musselburgh Ash Lagoons.

The snake was taken to a vets, where it was advised that due to the extent of its injuries the only humane option was to end its suffering by putting it to sleep.

Senior Inspector John Toule said, "The snake was left in a plastic container and was discovered when the man's dogs wouldn't leave the spot.

"This animal was still alive when it was found but was cold and dehydrated, with burns covering more than half its body.

"We think it's possible the snake sustained these burns by wrapping itself around an uncovered heater or bulb, or it may have been lying on a very hot heat pad.

"It is extremely concerning that someone would abandon a snake in this condition and if anyone has information about who owned this animal we would urge them to contact our helpline on 03000 999 999."

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

Photo courtesy of Scottish SPCA