

Royal python found abandoned outside block of flats

11 February 2025

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Lewis Adams

BBC News, Essex



Royal pythons originate from West Africa but can be kept as exotic pets

Charity workers were left "shocked" after finding a python abandoned outside a block of flats.

The metre-long (3ft) snake was discovered in a plastic box near the property's main entrance in Satanita Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

RSPCA officer Enola Evans said the "poor snake was cold and lethargic", adding it was later taken in by a veterinarian.

The charity appealed for anyone who may have seen how the animal was discarded to get in touch.

Royal pythons originate from the grasslands of West Africa and use constriction rather than venom to kill their prey.

They can grow up to a length of 1.5 metres (almost 5ft).

They are known to curl into a ball when they feel threatened or frightened, [according to the RSPCA](#).



The python was found in "freezing" weather conditions, the RSPCA said

"We are not sure how long the royal python was left outside in the cold, rainy weather in dangerously inappropriate housing and conditions," Ms Evans said.

"This could have been life-threatening for the snake."

The RSPCA said the snake's plight came amid rising cases of abandonment.

A total of 1,972 abandonment incidents were reported to the charity in January, compared to 1,471 incidents in the first month of 2024.

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