



Appeal after nine guinea pigs were dumped on a doorstep

The RSPCA is appealing for information after nine guinea pigs were dumped on a doorstep of a house in Watford.

The guineas were found in a soggy cardboard box on the morning of Friday 26 November outside a property in Cobb Green, Watford.

The box contained six sows (female guinea pigs) and three boars (males), and one of the females has since given birth to two babies at the weekend



One of the females, who has been named Moomin, was suffering from a head tilt and was circling around. She has been taken to a vet and was given a course of antibiotics, as it is thought she is suffering from an ear infection.

The guineas were collected from the house by RSPCA animal welfare officer (AWO) Kate Cornell,

AWO Cornell, also runs her own guinea pig rescue home called, 'Guinea Pig Rescue and Rehome', and has now taken the rescued guinea pigs on.

She said: "These poor guinea pigs were found dumped on a doorstep in a soggy cardboard box.

"The gentleman who discovered them on his doorstep said they had not been there the night before, so the likelihood was that they had been dumped there late and spent the night outside in this awful cold weather.

"A couple of the guineas do have mites and are receiving treatment, one has already given birth to two babies, and the chances are that some of the others are pregnant as well.

"It is just heart-breaking to think that someone has just decided to discard these animals like a piece of rubbish just because they didn't want them anymore.

"They also left them on the doorstep of a member of the public who had absolutely nothing to do with them. Abandoning an animal is an offence and punishable in the courts, we would appeal to anyone who has any information about this incident to contact the RSPCA cruelty line on 0300 1234 999."

Those found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal can face a maximum six month prison sentence and/or a £20,000 fine.

Once the guinea pigs are fit and healthy and if no one comes forward to claim them, they will be available for rehoming.

Anyone interested in rehoming a guinea pig is urged to visit the Guinea Pig Rescue and Rehome website at www.freewebs.com/guineapigrescueandrehome/ or you can call 07734 329485

Note to editors:

- A photograph and interviews are available on request – please contact the East press office on 0300 123 8404

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