

Real, live Muffin found in a box

By Tom Dalton

Staff writer

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SALEM — Victoria Savino of Beverly drove to the Market Basket on Highland Avenue yesterday to buy steak and potatoes for dinner.

She got as far as the parking lot when her plans changed.

She and her sister started walking toward the supermarket entrance when they heard "this crying noise," she said. When they stopped to listen, they realized it was coming from inside a box that had been discarded in the middle of the parking lot.

The box looked familiar to Savino, who works at a Dunkin' Donuts in Beverly. It was a Dunkin' Donuts reduced fat blueberry muffin box.

The contents, though, was a surprise. When they opened the top, a black and white kitten poked out its head.

While her sister tried to keep the cat from jumping out of the box, Savino went inside the store to get some dry cat food.

After the cat was fed, they took it to the Northeast Animal Shelter, which is just down the road.

"I would have kept the cat, but I already have one," Savino said. "The cat is very affectionate. ... He's just so lovable."

The kitten likely will be placed temporarily in a foster home for pets, if one is available, according to Laurie McCannon, the marketing director at the shelter.

Savino made a donation to help cover the cost of the cat's care, which could include a blood test, vaccinations and worming. More money will be taken from the shelter's emergency medical care fund, McCannon said.

Savino said it was upsetting to think someone would stick a cat in a box and just leave it in a parking lot full of cars that are coming and going.

"It breaks my heart," she said. "I don't know why people do these things to animals."

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Before leaving, Savino suggested a name for the cat she found inside a Dunkin' Donuts box.

"Maybe whoever adopts the kitten will name it Muffin," she said.

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