

MailOnline

Meet the wiliest of all coyotes: Hit by a car at 75mph, embedded in the fender, and dragged for 600 miles - but Tricky SURVIVED

By [Mail Foreign Service](#)

Last updated at 6:13 PM on 28th October 2009

When a brother and sister struck a coyote at 75mph they assumed they had killed the animal and drove on.

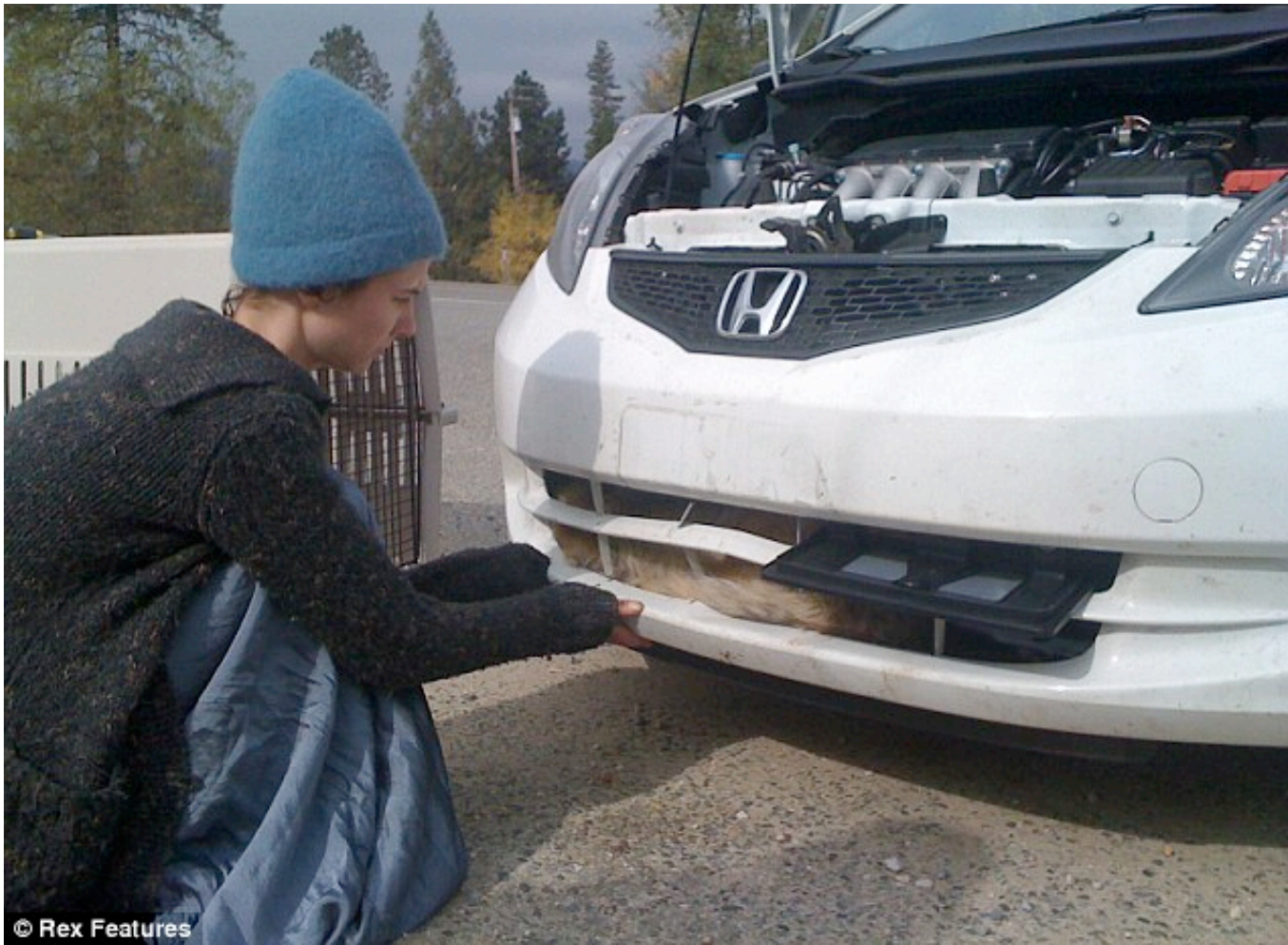
They didn't realise this was the toughest creature ever to survive a hit-and-run.

Eight hours, two fuel stops, and 600 miles later they found the wild animal embedded in their front fender - and very much alive.



Wily coyote: The animal's head can be seen as rescuers took apart the front fender to

save it after it was struck by the car at 75mph



'We knew it was bad': Tevyn East, who was in the car when it hit the coyote, bends down to take a look at the fur poking through the fender

And - as if to prove the point - the wily coyote later escaped from where it was being kept to recover.

Daniel and Tevyn East were driving at night along Interstate 80 near the Nevada-Utah border when they noticed a pack of coyotes near the roadside on October 12.

When one of the animals ran in front of the car, the impact sounded fatal so the siblings thought there no point in stopping.

'Right off the bat, we knew it was bad,' Daniel explained. 'We thought the story was over.'

After the incident around 1am, they continued their 600 mile drive to North San Juan - even stopping for fuel at least twice.



Fur Pete's sake: What Mr East spotted as he bent down to inspect the damage to his car - the body of the coyote poking out through the radiator



Miracle escape: As the animal struggled, wildlife protection officials put a loop around its neck to prevent it from further injuring itself

But it was only when they finally reached their destination at 9am did they take time to examine what damage they may have sustained.

At first it looked as though it was going to be quite gruesome.

'[Daniel] saw fur and the body inside the grill,' Tevyn East said. 'I was trying to keep some distance. Our assumption was it was part of the coyote - it didn't register it was the whole animal.'

Daniel East got a broom to try and pry the remains out of the bumper and got the shock of his life.

'It flinched,' Tevyn East said. 'It was a huge surprise - he got a little freaked out.'



© Rex Features

The front of the car is completely taken apart as the coyote begins to wriggle free



And voila! Tricky the toughest coyote ever rests in a cage after its ordeal - which it survived with just some scrapes to its paw

The pair immediately phone Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release.

'We could see a little bit of blood, not a lot, and we couldn't see any wounds,' Tevyn East said. 'We didn't know if it was suffering and we should put it out of its misery, or if we could rescue it. But we realized we were going to have to take the front end of the car off to get to it.'

The coyote had been thoroughly embedded between the front fender and radiator of their Honda Fit car - and had amazingly survived the journey without any broken bones or internal injuries.

'It just had some scrapes on its paw,' Daniel East said.

The coyote - which was nicknamed Tricky - became active while trying to escape the car space so, fearing severe internal injuries, wildlife rescue worker Jan Crowell managed to snare a loop around its neck.

Jan took the coyote to a kennel in her yard while figuring out where to release it.

But three days later the coyote saw its chance - and escaped by wriggling beneath the bottom bar of the cage.

'Now it's a local coyote,' Tevyn East said.

'This coyote is amazing. If you look at the front of our car, the grill broke and acted like a net to soften the impact. It's pretty insane ... somehow the conditions were just right for it to survive the trip. We're trying to tell

the story to people, to family and friends back home, but people can't wrap their minds around it.'

'We named it Tricky for a reason,' Daniel East said.

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"Really? Tell that to the family of my wife's aunt. She was killed and eaten by wolves in Siberia".
from Eric Jones, Swindon

Someone's telling porkies! Or just stupid.
Wolves have NEVER attacked live humans. And Coyotes are as harmless as foxes

- alibongo, dorset uk, 27/10/2009 17:30

Somehow they seem to forget what your text book tells them to do when it gets cold and hungry in a Siberian winter.
I admit I was surprised to read Coyotes just killed someone in Canada (since you wrote this)

- Eric, Swindon, UK, 29/10/2009 10:14

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Hey bruce, what the f*** are you on about "american wanna-be cowboys". Look at the pictures. These kids are obviously California hippies. Y'all sure are dumb there on criminal island. Have another bluetin and stfu.

- Pinky Chamford, Naragassette, 29/10/2009 09:31

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hmm,
maybe even Coyotes do this. I'm surprised, I guess when anything is hungry enough it will do unusual things. VERY

"Really? Tell that to the family of my wife's aunt. She was killed and eaten by wolves in Siberia.
(But Coyotes are not wolves and (while they are a problem in the US) - I'm glad this one survived, poor thing.)

"alibongo, dorset uk, "Coyotes and foxes

- Eric Jones, Swindon, UK, 29/10/2009 09:12

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It's very hard to imagine if you live in Europe but there is only 1 major city (Reno NV) on highway I-80 in most of the 1000 kilometers they traveled that night, and Reno was over 400 miles from where the accident occurred. It is truly desolate country and after midnight it is even worse, The speed limit in Nevada on this road was 80 mph the last time I traveled it. You driver for miles and miles with out seeing another light on either side of the road. Other than the occasional State Trooper or Sheriff there is no one to help you but other passing motorist or trucks and not a lot of them at that time of night. Open an Atlas or better yet google it. You are pretty much on your own in a great desert. There are no animal control officers roaming this highway at night. Anyone who

offered to help that night would have made sure the coyote was dead before they got near it to work on the car. They probably kept on driving hoping to hit an exit and when the car didn't over heat they kept on

- REM1875, Buffalo Springs Clay County Texas, 29/10/2009 03:13

Click to rate Rating 9

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I, for one, value the lives of all animals. As human beings gifted with intelligence and all sorts of knowledge and skills, it is our duty and obligation to look after our planet and all living beings therein properly. I hope this news story instills greater compassion in us towards animals.

- Chona Linnie Barnaba, Cebu, Philippines, 29/10/2009 00:23

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Any wonder the world detests American wanna-be cowboys? I've lived and worked in the forests of SE Australia all my life and dealt with countless Injured animals. Even when some sort of risk may be construed one is STILL obligated to do the right thing ~ if only in the name of one's own humanity.

- Joshua White, LaTrobe Valley Australia, 28/10/2009 22:43

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