



Georgia: Rat causes \$30,000 in damage to minivan

By Jim Strickland, April 30, 2016, WSB/CNN, Georgia, USA

A woman in Georgia smelled a rat when she saw that her car had been damaged. In fact, the rodent totaled her family car, a tricked-out \$40,000 2014 Dodge Durango.

“This totally can happen to anyone,” said car owner Angie Beck.

She’s in a minivan now. She figured for at least a month her kids had been sharing space with the rat.

Her former minivan was totaled to the tune of \$30,000 in damage.

Shop technician Jacob Alves was disassembling the fender when the rat leapt out. “I was a little startled, but I wanted to catch him. I was up out of my chair running across the shop to get him,” he said.

The thing ran loose in the shop for three days before finally getting nabbed in a trap.

With the cars all equipped with wiring coated in soy insulation, body shop owner Kevin Moreland said “That’s the last thing I want, with all these cars in here, is a rat in my shop.”

As for Beck’s vehicle, Moreland said “It certainly seemed to focus on the wires, because a good bit of it was chewed up, but when it got tired of the wire, it moved on to anything and everything it could find.”

The pictures of the damage indicate plenty of crumbs left behind by Beck’s kids.

She says she's now vacuuming every other day and "I go look under the hood of my new vehicle once a week. That's how traumatized I am, just to make sure nothing's in there."

Beck also says the rat damaged the wires to the air bags, meaning they could've deployed while she was driving. She says she was practically riding around in a death trap.