

I DIDN'T THINK THAT a tribute for Os would be written for years. Os was going to die a grumpy old coyote, I always thought. My last moments with Os were not bad by any means, but they were fleeting as I went through my normal routine. If only I had known that there was only a small window of time for me to convey my appreciation and love to my friend, I would not have been so humanly hasty.

I shared many fond moments with Os. We were not exceptionally close but he was an inspiration and a significant part of my life. Os was one of the noblest little beings that I have met in my life. I remember one day when Jimmy, our disabled coyote, was still alive and Carosal, another coyote, started to harass him. Os was on the other side of the enclosure and saw what was going on. When Os got to them, Carosal had Jimmy on the ground and was attacking him. Os bit Carosal so hard and quick on the butt that she immediately stopped what she



## Os scrappy little guy

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was doing. By the time she knew what had happened, Os was standing between Carosal and Jimmy, allowing Jimmy to regain his footing behind his stalwart friend. Os and Carosal had some silent dialogue as to what just happened – and what wouldn't happen again. After the clandestine conversation was done, they all went back to their business. It was the most noble gesture that I have seen an animal make to another animal.

Os was definitely a special little soul. Now that I think about it, Os

shared in Jimmy's ephemeral lifestyle. I suppose that's why they burned so bright. They didn't have a lot of time to make an impact so they really packed in the living. Os – I am sure Jimmy was there waiting for you when you made that final journey. You couldn't ask for a better spirit



Os (top) and Jimmy as pups, soon after rescue in 2005 JULIE LAWRENCE PHOTOS.

guide my little friend. He will take care of you now and ensure that you are safe. Your everlasting howl that would stand on the pinnacle of every group howl is greatly missed. You are one scrappy tough little guy and an even more beautiful spirit, Os. Thank you for being you.

