

Sam Goes Electric

by Joe Lillard Jr

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Samuel, our Scottish Terrier, named after Hahnemann of course, decided to eat an extension cord. He started a high pitched yelping and when we found him, he was moaning, shaking and still stuck to the cord. The elapsed time from the first yelp to being cut loose was a minute and a half.

Off the cord, Samuel began spasmodically bouncing around the room, crashing into walls, leaping high in the air - totally out of control. It didn't seem to have anything to do with pain - his whole system appeared to be totally spastic, as if in a seizure. I arrived on the scene within what seemed like a very long minute. I took one look and made a grab for *Arnica 200* and gave Sam a dose. Within 30 seconds Samuel stopped leaping about and sat quite still.

Meanwhile, I headed for *Aconite*, thinking that if he lived through the next few minutes he would be in fearful state. On returning with the only *Aconite* I could find (10M) I saw Samuel quite wide eyed, and jumping and jerking at the least noise. I gave him the 10M - only the second time in 15 years I have given a remedy that high. He calmed right down.

I took a look at Samuel's mouth. He had a raw spot on his tongue and another on his lip. I put a little *Calendula* tincture in a bowl of water and left, only to be called right back. After drinking the bowl of *Calendula* water and another of plain

water Sam had started scratching at his head and ears and shaking his head; he seemed to be reacting to pain. I gave Samuel a dose of *Arnica 1M* and he curled up and went to sleep in seconds. Fifteen minutes later a neighbour came in. Samuel jumped up and did his usual dance-of-joy greeting. End of story.

About a month later, Samuel began to scratch his ears and shake his head again. One dose of *Arnica 200* brought him round again.

Thanks to Chris for rescuing Samuel from the wire, and for trying to give him *Arnica* Samuel was a bit too wild for the average dosing techniques. When treating or handling animals in distress, whether wild or domesticated, use caution as there is an increased risk of being bitten.

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