

Pooch gets zapped on snowy Oval

By Sabina Molloy

A combination of snow and salt in Stuyvesant Oval may have led to a 16-month-old puppy getting an electric shock that sent her to the local animal hospital.

Pinky, a rambunctious coonhound, had been getting carried around in a cart by her walker, a friend of her owner, when suddenly, the pup decided she'd rather play on the ground. Pinky then jumped over to a patch of ground, not far from the Oval Film center, where a black cord and converter box were lying nearby. At the time the ground was still covered in snow. At this point, her walker noticed Pinky began acting funny, and when the walker picked the 50-pound pooch up from the ground, she was shaking.

After being taken to ABC Animal Hospital on 14th Street, the veterinarian, Dr. Daniel Tufaro recognized the symptoms—shock from stray voltage. Fortunately,



BACK TO NORMAL—Pinky on a stroll through Stuyvesant Town this week

aside from being frightened, Pinky was fine, which Tufaro credited to a low amount of voltage.

“She was very lucky,” said Tufaro, after the incident, which occurred on March 4. “She was shocked, but it

wasn't a great current.”

It was likely the combination of snow and the salts used to remove snow from the ground that caused the stray voltage, but there isn't any way to avoid the somewhat common problem, he said.

“There's nothing you can do. It happens. I wouldn't say it happens often, but the city's infrastructure is so big. Sometimes the animals are dead or they'll have a mild arrhythmia, but it goes away. That's usually what happens.”

If the dog is lucky, it'll end up like Pinky. “It'll really scare the dog. It scares them profoundly,” said Tufaro.

Pinky's owner declined to be named in this story, citing the anti-dog sentiments of some of her neighbors.

“I can just see the letters (to the editor) now,” she said. “It was the dog's fault. Kill all the dogs. But she's curbed trained and I'm very proud of that.”

On the dog's running off, the owner was unsure, but recalled, “She was agitated all day.”

In response to the incident, a spokesperson for Tishman Speyer said, “We immediately addressed the cause and are happy to hear that the dog is fine. We urge all dog owners to keep their pets on a leash and to prevent them from entering restricted areas.”