

# Don't Get Zapped!

What did dumb ol' D-Wayne feel when he got caught up in that electric fence? If he was lucky, it just felt like a bee sting. Or the shock might have hurt really bad. It just depends how much of an electrical charge the fence holds.

Any electric shock is too much!

Electric fences are used to keep deer and other pests out of gardens and to keep domesticated animals penned up. A fence charged to keep cattle or horses in a pasture is going to feel a lot worse than a bee sting. That's because a cattle or horse fence has a charge high enough to penetrate an animal's fur and tough hide. Even cows and horses quickly learn not to brush up against an electric fence because it hurts! They remember how it felt.

You don't have a thick hide and fur, and even if you did, you wouldn't want to touch an electric fence. There's nothing fun about it.

Fortunately, electric fences give only short bursts of energy that last about a thousandth of a second, so there's time for a person or an animal to move away from the wire before the next burst of energy comes. Pull back immediately if you are shocked.

The best advice for you, as well as for Marvin and D-Wayne, is: **STAY AWAY FROM ELECTRIC FENCES!**

Cartoonist Keith Graves is a popular artist and author of children's books. Among his greatest hits are *Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance*, below, *Uncle Blub-bafink's Seriously Ridiculous Stories* and *Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout*.

