

A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY



Introduction: Mrs. Pumphrey's Worry for Tricki

Tricki, a small, overfed dog, led a luxurious life with his wealthy mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey. She pampered him excessively with rich food like cream cakes and chocolates, which led to his ill health. Tricki became lethargic and overweight, resembling a "bloated sausage." Alarmed by his condition, Mrs. Pumphrey sought the help of Mr. Herriot, a veterinary surgeon.

Mr. Herriot's Intervention

Mr. Herriot advised Mrs. Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet and increase his physical activity. However, she found it difficult to follow his instructions. When Tricki's health deteriorated further—he refused to eat, vomited, and showed no interest in his surroundings—Mr. Herriot decided to hospitalize him.

Tricki's Recovery at the Surgery

At the surgery, Tricki underwent a remarkable transformation. He was given no special food or medication—only plenty of water and time to interact with other dogs. Playing and competing with them brought back his energy and reduced his weight. He started eating normally and adapted to an active lifestyle.

Mrs. Pumphrey's Overwhelming Gratitude

During Tricki's stay, Mrs. Pumphrey kept sending luxury items like eggs, wine, and brandy, believing they were essential for his recovery. Meanwhile, the veterinary staff enjoyed the treats. After two weeks, Mr. Herriot informed Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki had fully recovered.

The Triumph of Surgery

When Mrs. Pumphrey came to collect Tricki, she was overjoyed to see him healthy and energetic. She considered his recovery a "triumph of surgery," unaware that the real cure was a change in lifestyle.

Lessons from the Story

The story highlights the importance of moderation and a healthy lifestyle for pets. It also portrays Mrs. Pumphrey's blind love for Tricki and Mr. Herriot's practical approach to solving problems. The humor lies in Mrs. Pumphrey's misunderstanding of Tricki's recovery process and the indulgence of the veterinary staff.

Character Sketch of Tricki

Tricki is a pampered and gluttonous dog whose greed for food causes his illness. Despite his initial lethargy, he adapts quickly to an active life, showing resilience and joy in simple pleasures like playing with other dogs.

Extract Based Questions:

"I tried to sound severe: 'Now I really mean this. If you don't cut down on the sweet things, it's all over for him. You don't understand, don't you? Mrs. Pumphrey wrung her hands. 'Oh, I will, Mr. Herriot. I'm sure you're right, but it would break his heart.

I. What tone does Mr. Herriot use when speaking to Mrs. Pumphrey?

- A. Empathetic
- B. Stern
- C. Humorous
- D. Indifferent

Answer: B. Stern

II. How does Mrs. Pumphrey's reaction reveal her relationship with Tricki?

Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey's reaction shows that she is overly indulgent and emotionally attached to Tricki, treating him more like a pampered child than a pet. Her reluctance to make changes, despite knowing it is necessary, highlights her excessive care and affection for Tricki.

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

Mrs. Pumphrey's behavior can be described as _____ (practical / indulgent).

Answer: Indulgent

IV. What does this interaction reveal about Mr. Herriot's approach as a veterinarian?

Answer: This interaction reveals that Mr. Herriot is professional and firm when it comes to the well-being of animals. He emphasizes the importance of discipline and is willing to confront owners about their behavior to ensure the health of their pets.

2. "The entire staff was roused, maids rushed in and out bringing his day-bed, his night-bed, cushions, toys, rubber rings, breakfast bowl, lunch bowl, supper bowl. Realising that my car would never hold all the stuff, I started to drive away as fast as I could. As I moved off, Mrs. Pumphrey, with a cry, threw an armful of little coats through the window."

I. What does this extract tell us about Mrs. Pumphrey's character?

- A. She is indifferent towards Tricki's needs.
- B. She is overly anxious and extravagant in her care for Tricki.
- C. She is practical in ensuring Tricki's comfort.
- D. She is dismissive of Mr. Herriot's advice.

Answer: B. She is overly anxious and extravagant in her care for Tricki.

II. How does the staff's reaction reflect the treatment of Tricki in Mrs. Pumphrey's household?

Answer: The staff's hurried and exaggerated actions reflect the pampered and overindulgent lifestyle Tricki enjoys in Mrs. Pumphrey's household. It shows that everyone in the household is complicit in treating Tricki as if he were royalty.

III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The phrase 'threw an armful of little coats through the window' indicates Mrs. Pumphrey's _____ (thoughtfulness / desperation) to ensure Tricki's comfort.

Answer: Desperation

IV. What does this scene foreshadow about Tricki's health and the subsequent events in the story?

Answer: This scene foreshadows that Tricki's overindulgence and lack of proper care will lead to serious health issues, requiring Mr. Herriot's intervention. It also hints at the humorous and exaggerated lengths Mrs. Pumphrey will go to for her beloved pet.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. Why was Tricki sent to the hospital? (2023)

Tricki was sent to the hospital because he was overfed and pampered, leading to obesity and lethargy. He refused to eat and became listless, prompting Mr. Herriot to take him for treatment.

2. What changes did Tricki undergo at the hospital? (2022)

At the hospital, Tricki experienced a complete transformation. He shed his excess weight, became active, and started interacting with other dogs. The simple, regular meals and physical activities restored his health.

3. How did Mrs. Pumphrey react when Tricki returned home? (2021)

Mrs. Pumphrey was ecstatic when Tricki returned home. She was overwhelmed with gratitude and declared his recovery a "triumph of surgery." Her joy reflected her immense love and care for Tricki.

4. What was the role of Mr. Herriot in Tricki's recovery? (2020)

Mr. Herriot played a crucial role in Tricki's recovery by enforcing a strict diet, encouraging exercise, and providing a normal, balanced lifestyle at the hospital. His professional approach ensured Tricki regained his health.

5. Why was Mrs. Pumphrey unable to follow the vet's advice? (2019)

Mrs. Pumphrey was unable to follow the vet's advice due to her excessive affection and

overindulgence in Tricki. She pampered him with rich food and luxuries, ignoring the consequences on his health.

Long Answer Questions (100-120 words each)

6. What does the story 'A Triumph of Surgery' teach us about pet care? (2023)

The story emphasizes the importance of proper pet care, balanced diets, and regular physical activity for pets. Mrs. Pumphrey's overindulgence in Tricki led to his health issues, while Mr. Herriot's practical approach ensured his recovery. The narrative highlights that excessive pampering can harm pets and underlines the need for discipline and responsibility in pet ownership.

7. Discuss the humor in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery.' (2022)

The humor in the story arises from the exaggerated care Mrs. Pumphrey provides to Tricki, treating him like a pampered child. Her actions, such as sending coats, cushions, and bowls for Tricki, are comically excessive. Additionally, Mr. Herriot's dry wit and observations add to the humor, as does the dramatic contrast between Mrs. Pumphrey's indulgence and Tricki's simple recovery at the hospital.

8. How did Mr. Herriot handle Tricki's treatment? What was his approach? (2021)

Mr. Herriot adopted a practical and straightforward approach to Tricki's treatment. He removed Tricki from the overindulgent environment, put him on a strict diet, and ensured regular physical activity. His simple yet effective method highlights the importance of moderation and discipline, contrasting with Mrs. Pumphrey's excessive care.

9. Describe the relationship between Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki. (2020)

Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki shared a deeply affectionate relationship. She treated Tricki like her own child, pampering him with luxuries like fine food and little coats. However, her overindulgence led to Tricki's poor health, demonstrating how excessive love can sometimes be harmful.

10. What is the message of the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'? (2019)

The story conveys the message that excessive pampering and indulgence can lead to negative consequences, even when well-intentioned. It also emphasizes the importance of moderation, a healthy lifestyle, and the expertise of professionals like Mr. Herriot in ensuring the well-being of pets.