

# A Triumph of Surgery

## MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn't want to go for walks, didn't want to do anything.

I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalised for about a fortnight to be kept under observation. (A Triumph of Surgery)

- Ans:** The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. He refused even his favorite dishes, and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all of his time lying on a rug panting. He didn't want to go for walks, didn't want to do anything. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested he be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.

2. Why was Mr. Herriot shocked at Tricki's appearance?

- Ans:** Mr. Herriot was shocked at Tricki's appearance because the dog had become overweight. Mr. Herriot compared the dog to a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. The dog's eyes were bloodshot and rheumy, stared straight ahead and his tongue lolled from his jaws. It made Mr. Herriot worried about the Tricki.

3. How did Mrs. Pumphrey treat Tricki?

- Ans:** Mrs. Pumphrey was a young, rich, and well-to-do lady. She pampered her pet dog, Tricki. She used to spend on the well-being and maintenance of her pet. Once she overfed her dog by giving him malt, cod-liver oil, fruits and vegetables, and what not. That dog also loved to eat sweets, ice-creams, and chocolates. So, she couldn't be strict and deny him the sweet treats. She gave in to Tricki's greedy demands. She was worried when her dog became listless. She could not live without him.

4. What was Mr. Herriot's strict advice? Did Mrs. Pumphrey agree to his advice? (Answer the following questions in 40-50 words)

- Ans:** Mr. Herriot's strict advice to Mrs. Pumphrey was to restrain from giving her pet dog Tricki, unnecessary rich diet that would cause him serious illness and to give him plenty of exercises. No, Mrs. Pumphrey did not agree to his advice as she continued spoiling her dog's health by giving him rich food things like malt, cod liver, cupcakes, etc and no exercise.

5. Dr. Herriot knew his patients as well as their owners really well. Discuss.

- Ans:** James Herriot treats Tricki just like an overweight dog should be treated. He cuts down his food intake and keeps him under strict observation for the initial days at the hospital. He gradually increases Tricki's food and denies him the additional treats sent by Mrs. Pumphrey for him. Mr. Herriot sets Tricki free to run and play with the other dogs in the hospital for physical exercise to improve his health. This proves that Dr. Herriot knew his patient as well as their owners really well.

6. Why was it important for Mrs. Pumphrey to be a little cruel in order to be kind towards Tricki?

**Ans:** Tricki was a greedy dog. He could never refuse to eat whatever and whenever it was given him. He also hated exercise and these traits led him to serious health conditions. Mrs. Pumphrey had to be cruel and deny Tricki his food and force him to move in order to save his life. That is the reason why Mrs. Pumphrey needed to be cruel to Tricki for Tricki's sake.

