

# CH-1: A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

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SUPPLEMENTARY READER

## Chapter Sketch

The story narrates the episode where the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, saves the life of a dull dog, Tricki, by hospitalizing him to prevent him from being overfed by his wealthy owner, Mrs. Pumphrey, which was only worsening his condition.

## ➤ *Chapter Highlights*

1. James Herriot stops the car and sees the poor health of Mrs. Pumphrey's dog, Tricki.
2. He advises Mrs. Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet and make him exercise daily.
3. Mrs. Pumphrey continues to overfeed Tricki, which worsens his condition.
4. She calls James Herriot for help on noticing Tricki's deteriorating health.
5. He decides to hospitalize Tricki for a fortnight to treat him.
6. Tricki's hospitalization left Mrs. Pumphrey and the helpers at home in tears.
7. Tricki was kept on a strict diet in the hospital. His diet was increased according to the improvements he showed.
8. Mrs. Pumphrey's anxiousness about Tricki's health went away on learning that Tricki was recovering satisfactorily.
9. She started to send eggs, wine and brandy for Tricki to enrich his blood and improve his health.
10. These items were instead enjoyed by James and his partner.
11. Tricki was transformed from a weak fat dog to a hard-muscled and agile one.
12. James Herriot calls Mrs. Pumphrey to come and take Tricki home.

## **Think About it** (Page 6)

- 1) What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?**

**Ans.** *The narrator is a capable and wise doctor. He handles Tricki properly which shows that he is sincere about his profession. He doesn't operate upon the dog unnecessarily and cures him by altering his diet and activities. He is a tactful person as he knew exactly how to convince Mrs. Pumphrey to hospitalize Tricki for a surgery. His decision to inform Mrs. Pumphrey to collect Tricki supports his sensibilities even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.*

- 2) Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?**

**Ans.** *Tricki was happy to go back home as he really loved his mistress and the comfort of his lavish life. He didn't have any friends at home like in the hospital, but he seemed equally excited at the sight of Mrs. Pumphrey. I think that Mrs. Pumphrey will now be careful about Tricki's diet and health. She may also give him exercise daily as prescribed by the Vet earlier.*

- 3) Do you think it is a real-life episode or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?**

**Ans.** *The story seems to be a mixture of both. It may be possible for rich persons to overfeed their pets due to love. It is not unusual for them to maintain a vast wardrobe for them either. But it is unlikely for a veterinary doctor to go out of the way and lie in order to save an animal.*