

**Question 1: Why is Mrs. Pumphrey worried about Tricki?**

Answer: As Tricki was not eating, Mrs. Pumphrey was concerned and unhappy for his health. He vomited occasionally and wouldn't eat any of his favourite foods. He didn't show any interest in taking daily walks either; he spent all his time panting while lying on a rug.

**Question 2: What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?**

Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey initially believed Tricki had grown listless because he didn't seem to have any energy. She started giving him tiny extras between meals to build him up, some malt and cod liver oil, and a bowl of Horlicks at night to help him sleep because she felt he must be malnourished. Additionally, she would feed him unnecessary indulgences in cream cakes and chocolates while neglecting to exercise him. Tricki gained a lot of weight as a result of all this pampering and overeating, resembling a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. His mistress made a grave error in feeding him excessively, which worsened his condition and made him sluggish and bulky.

**Question 3: Who does 'I' refer to in this story?**

Answer: In the narrative, "I" refers to veterinarian Dr. James Herriot.

**Read and Find Out (Page 3)****Question 1: Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?**

Answer: Certain passages in the narrative imply that Dr. Herriot was not as wealthy as Tricki's mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey. This is demonstrated by the fact that the narrator was unable to provide Tricki with a comfortable life that included a cosy bed filled with favourite pillows, toys, and rubber rings as well as bowls for each meal of the day. Instead, he made Tricki a bed in a warm loose box next to the one where the other dogs slept. Additionally, the doctor did not have the funds to hire a full staff of maids and caregivers, much like Mrs. Pumphrey, to take sole responsibility for Tricki's maintenance and well-being.

**Question 2: How does he treat the dog?**

Answer: Dr. Herriot did not spoil Tricki with extraneous food. He more or less treated him like a fat, lethargic puppy who needed regular exercise and a healthy food. For the first few days, he restricted his diet and kept him under supervision. Over time, he increased Tricki's food intake while maintaining a healthy diet and gave him freedom to engage in physical activity. The dog's health gradually began to improve, and he quickly recovered from his illness without the need for any kind of medication.

**Question 3: Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?**

Answer: To increase Tricki's strength, Mrs. Pumphrey started bringing two dozen fresh eggs at a time. Later, even the bottles of brandy and wine started to show up. For breakfast, the narrator and his companions had two eggs each, wine, and brandy that was intended for Tricki. They were days of deep contentment, ones that began well with an extra egg in the morning, were strengthened and sustained by wine at lunch, and ended opulently by the fire with brandy. Herriot was very tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest so she could enjoy the opulent inflow of all these foods.

**Question 4: Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?**

Answer: When Mrs. Pumphrey saw Dr. Herriot, she believed Tricki to be gravely ill. However, in just two weeks, Tricki made a full recovery from his ailment. She was pleased to see that he had evolved into a supple, animal with strong muscles. When Tricki was introduced to Mrs. Pumphrey by Dr. Herriot, he made a huge leap and floated into her lap. His recuperation without the aid of medication was remarkable, and she praised the veterinarian by calling the dog's recovery "a marvel of surgery" to show her appreciation and satisfaction.

**Think about it (Page 6)****Question 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?**

Answer: The narrator was an extremely intelligent and diplomatic veterinarian. Knowing that Tricki was healthy and not afflicted, he treated the dog with kindness and care. He could tell by the dog's laziness that his mistress had overfed him, causing him to gain weight. As a result, he did not operate on him; instead, he changed his diet and got him moving to heal him. Tricki recovered from his ailment under the doctor's care in just two weeks.

Dr. Herriot was tactful because he was able to persuade Mrs. Pumphrey to admit Tricki for surgery. He knew exactly how to care for her pet in a way that would make him vibrant. Even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest because of the opulent inflow of expensive food items occasionally sent by his mistress, he told Mrs Pumphrey to come pick up Tricki after the dog recovered.

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

Answer: Yes, Tricki was glad to be back home since he missed his comfortable life and how much he loved his mistress. He didn't have any pals at home like he did in the hospital, but he appeared just as eager to see his mistress when she showed up after two weeks. Given Tricki's sluggishness, we hope Mrs. Pumphrey will watch Tricki's diet and health going forward and make an effort to get her pet moving as advised by Dr. Herriot earlier.

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

Answer: The plot appears to be a combination of a fictional work and a true event. Rich individuals frequently overfeed their animals out of love and compassion, much like Mrs. Pumphrey did. We have seen how the dog became overweight and sluggish as a result of her pampering. Similar to this, it's common for wealthy individuals to want to provide their dogs a lavish life and to frequently spoil them. It could be unlikely for a veterinary professional like Dr. Herriot, who went above and beyond by lying to the owner about a procedure in order to spare her cat from pointless pleasures.

**Talk about it (Page 7)****Question 1: This episode describes the silly behaviour of a rich woman who is foolishly indulgent, perhaps because she is lonely. Do you think such people are merely silly, or can their actions cause harm to others?**

Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey's foolish decision to overfeed Tricki had a negative impact on the health of her pet. In the pretext of love and affection, she was forcing Tricki to consume excessive amounts of fattening food. This made his health so much worse that he was too fat and sluggish to even take short trips outside. Rich people, like Mrs. Pumphrey, frequently spoil their animals by overfeeding them in an effort to improve their health, which can have harmful consequences for the animals.

**Question 2: Do you think there are also parents like Mrs Pumphrey?**

Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey's foolish decision to overfeed Tricki had a negative impact on the health of her pet. In the pretext of love and affection, she was forcing Tricki to consume excessive amounts of fattening food. This made his health so much worse that he was too fat and sluggish to even take short trips outside. Rich people, like Mrs. Pumphrey, frequently spoil their animals by overfeeding them in an effort to improve their health, which can have harmful consequences for the animals.

**Question 3: What would you have done if you were: (i) a member of the staff in Mrs Pumphrey's household, (ii) a neighbour? What would your life have been like, in general?**

Answer:

1. If I had been a member of the domestic staff, I would not have blindly complied with Mrs. Pumphrey's request to feed Tricki without taking into account the potential risks. In truth, I would have fed him in accordance with the veterinarian's recommendations and made sure he got enough exercise to help him stay active and healthy. In addition, I would have avoided sending Tricki's needless belongings, like the toys and cushions, to the hospital and provided him a balanced diet that is simple to digest.
2. If I were Mrs. Pumphrey's next-door neighbour, I may have suggested that she follow a strict diet and involve Tricki in play, jogging, or walks. If his illness had gotten worse, I would have advised her to see a vet and closely abide by his instructions in order to maintain her pet's health. In addition, I would have been helpful and kind in such a dire circumstance when Tricki was scheduled to be hospitalised. I would have done everything in my power to show Mrs. Pumphrey compassion and kindness.

**Question 4: What would you have done if you were in the narrator's place?**

Answer: I would have handled Tricki with love and compassion if I had been in the narrator's position. I would have been as watchful and considerate of Tricki as Mr. James Herriot was. However, given Mrs. Pumphrey's passion for her beloved cat, I could have been a little more stern in my advice to her to provide Tricki a healthy diet. Additionally, I would have resisted the need to make Tricki a permanent resident of my hospital and would not have consumed his half of the eggs, wine, and brandy that Mrs. Pumphrey had sent.