

# **A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY**

**BY**

**JAMES HERRIOT**



**CLASS X ENGLISH**

**FOOT PRINTS WITHOUT FEET**

**MODULE 1/2**

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR



James Alfred Wight (3 October 1916 – 23 February 1995), known by the pen name James Herriot, was a British veterinary surgeon and writer, who used his many years of experiences as a veterinary surgeon to write a series of books each consisting of stories about animals and their owners.

He is best known for these semi-autobiographical works, beginning with *If Only They Could Talk* in 1970, which spawned a series of movies and television series.



## Characters in the story

**MR. HERRIOT**

- a vet

**MRS. PUMPHREY**

- a rich lady

**TRICKI**

- Mrs Pumphery's pet dog



What's the story about?

**TRICKI, A SMALL  
DOG, IS PAMPERED  
AND OVERFED BY  
HIS RICH MISTRESS.**

**HE FALLS ILL AND  
HIS MISTRESS  
CONSULTS A  
VETERINARY  
SURGEON.**

**DOES HE PERFORM  
OPERATION? DOES  
THE DOG RECOVER?**

## **The Story in Brief**

Mrs Pumphrey was a rich lady who had a pet dog named Tricki. She loved her dog very much and was unable to refuse him anything he wanted. Tricki was fond of eating cream cakes and chocolates.

One day when Mrs. Pumphrey was out with Tricki for a walk, the narrator saw them and stopped to talk.

He was shocked to see Tricki because he looked like a bloated sausage. He had become very fat, his eyes were red and watery.



**Pumphrey explained that she believed the pet was suffering from malnourishment as he did not have any energy and excitement. She told him that she used to give him malt, cod liver oil and a bowl of horlicks at night, apart from his regular meals so that he could sleep at night.**

**Herriot realized that she had been overfeeding Tricki. He warned Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki would soon fall ill if she did not keep him on a strict diet and increase his exercise.**





**As expected by Mr Herriot, soon Tricki got unwell and Mrs. Pumphrey had to call Mr. Herriot.**

**She told him that she was very upset as Tricki was not eating anything, and was vomiting frequently.**

**Being a veteran in his field, he knew that the only way to get Tricki well was to get him out of the house for a few days. He then suggested to Mrs. Pumphrey that it would be good to get Tricki hospitalized and keep him under observation for a fortnight.**

**Mrs. Pumphrey nearly fainted and told Tricky would die if Tricky did not see her everyday. But Herriot told her that this was the only option as Tricky was very ill. He brought the dog to his surgery and kept along with a pack other dogs.**

**For the first two days, he did not give him any food but plenty of water. On the third day, Tricky, who was so listless about the new environment, began to whimper when he heard the other dogs at the yard. He trotted out and started playing with other dogs. His condition started steadily improving day by day.**





**He had now started fighting for his food with other dogs. The dog had been in the new world of joy in its friendly fights and playing with other dogs.**

**In order to facilitate the speedy recovery and improve her pet's strength, she started sending fresh eggs. To enrich his blood, she sent wine and brandy. Herriot and his partners at the surgery were very much surprised at the lavish supply, and they enjoyed themselves with all these supplements during their meals.**



- **After a fortnight, Herriot informed Mrs Pumphrey that Tricky was all right and was awaiting collection.**
- **To her surprise, Mrs Pumphrey found Tricky had been transformed into a hard muscled and active animal.**
- **On seeing his mistress, Tricky swarmed over her.**
- **Mrs Pumphrey was overwhelmed to see her pet to be very active. She expressed her gratitude to Mr Herriot, calling her pet's recovery was a "triumph of surgery".**



