



A Triumph of Surgery

JAMES HERRIOT

Summary

- ▶ The subject of this story is a pet dog which is spoilt by its owner. The owner indulges her dog so much with food and other comforts that the dog has become overweight and cannot even walk properly. Finally, the dog is taken to a veterinary doctor who treats the dog without using a single medicine. The dog is left with all other dogs so that it can play and get the much needed physical exercise. After a period of enough physical activities, the dog loses much of its fat and becomes hale and hearty.

Key Words

- ▶ **Bloated sausage:** *swollen, excessively fat*
*The dog looks like a **bloated sausage**. He prefers to sit than to move.*

Hasten: *To act quickly*
*The movement appears to be **hastening** for something.*
*The lady **hastens** for market.*

Relent: *change one's mind, do a U-turn*
*The child was going to refuse his request, but **relented**.*

Sequence of Events

- ▶ Tricky was a small dog and was excessively loved by his mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey.
- ▶ He was greedy & loved food, but did no exercise.
- ▶ As a result he became fat & Mrs. Pumphrey believed that he became lazy because he suffered from malnutrition.
- ▶ Mrs Pumphrey was a wealthy woman. She loved her dog too much.
- ▶ She gave him some little extras between meals to build him up, malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night.

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- ▶ Once he became ill & she was worried & made a frantic call to Harriot who was a vet.
 - ▶ James already had given suggestions regarding Tricki's balanced diet. But she never followed it.
 - ▶ He was a vet. He was shocked to see Tricki hugely fat, like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. He advised her to cut down on the sweet things.
 - ▶ He expected call came within a few days & it happened. He was called by Mrs. Pumphery as Tricki refused to eat.

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- ▶ He told her that Tricki needed immediate hospitalization for keeping under observation at his surgery for a fortnight.
 - ▶ There he gave him no food no medicine but plenty of water.
 - ▶ Gradually he mixed with other dogs & started playing with them.
 - ▶ He had a lot of exercises & fun.

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- ▶ He was completely recovered & transformed into a hard muscled dog.
 - ▶ James Harriot treated the dog without medicine or surgery.
 - ▶ She was happy & filled with gratitude.
 - ▶ When Mrs. Pumphrey got Tricki back she was so happy. She thought the narrator had done some surgery on him. So in gratitude she thanked Harriot & said it was a triumph of surgery.

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- ▶ **Mrs Pumphrey:** Mrs Pumphrey is a fabulously rich and resourceful lady with a large number of servants and maids. She is passionately attached to her little pet dog, Tricki. She is much worried about Tricki's miserable condition. Tricki had become hugely fat and listless. She thinks Tricki to be suffering from malnutrition. So, she starts giving Tricki malt, cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks every night. The doctor knew that Tricki's only fault was his greed for food. He advises Mrs Pumphrey to cut down food and sweets for Tricki. For Mrs Pumphrey, it was very difficult because she pampers Tricki like a spoiled child.
 - ▶ Mrs Pumphrey is impractical but very compassionate and caring. She and her staff arrange all comforts, beds, cushions and toys for Tricki. She constantly enquires about his health from Dr Herriot. She gratefully thanks Dr Herriot for saving Tricki's life and calls it "A triumph of Surgery."

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- ▶ **Tricki:** Tricki is a small dog. The only fault of Tricki is his greed for food. Overfeeding of sweets, cakes and chocolates make Tricki hugely fat. He becomes rheumy and listless. His tongue lolls from his jaws. The doctor advises Mrs Pumphrey to keep Tricki on a very strict diet and give him plenty of exercises. Tricki becomes a victim of overindulgence and overfeeding. Dr Herriot's instructions are ignored. Tricki loses appetite and starts vomiting. Dr Herriot suggests Mrs Pumphrey that Tricki be hospitalised under his observation for a fortnight. Tricki's recovery is amazingly rapid. He is not given food but plenty of water. After a few days, Tricki starts taking an interest in his surroundings. He is transformed into a flexible and hard-muscled dog. Tricki shows his love for his mistress by jumping onto her lap when she comes to collect him.

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- ▶ **Dr James Herriot:** Dr James Herriot, no doubt, is a competent veterinary surgeon. He is really worried about Tricki. He understands that the real fault of the dog is his greed for food. Dr Herriot instructs Mrs Pumphrey to keep Tricki on a very strict diet.
 - ▶ Dr James Herriot is practical and pragmatic. He doesn't give any medical treatment to the dog. He feeds the dog with only water. His method works. The grateful mistress thanks Dr Herriot Sil and calls his feat "A triumph of Surgery!" Dr James is clever enough to enjoy the best of both the worlds. He is tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest. It was a happy period for Dr Herriot and his friends. He used to enjoy eggs for breakfast and wine and brandy for lunch.