

Class 10, Footprints without Feet

Ch. 1 - A Triumph of Surgery

Question and Answers

Q1. 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 commonsense?

Ans. The narrator, a veterinary doctor is a very compassionate and an honest man as he does not unnecessarily operate upon Tricki. He goes out of the way to guide Mrs. Pumphrey that she should start keeping a strict check on Tricki's diet and his exercise schedule. He is tactful because he knows how to get Tricki to the hospital and his common sense can be seen by the simple fact that he just changed the eating and exercise schedule of Tricki which helped him recover from his problems. He did not unnecessarily put him on medicines.

Q2. Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?

Ans. Yes, Tricki was as happy to go home as much as he was staying in the surgery. He was happy staying in the surgery because he got many friends which he did not have at home and was happy to go back home because he did not have his lavish lifestyle at the surgery. His excitement to go back home can be seen from the fact that as soon as he saw his mistress, he jumped back into the car and started licking her face and roaming around in excitement. I think now he will be fine at home as well because earlier Mrs. Pumphrey did not take Mr. Herriot's advice seriously which led to Tricki's hospitalization.

Q3. Do you think this is a real-life episode, or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?

Ans. I feel that this story is a mixture of both because it is not a new thing that rich people overfeed their dog or maintain excessive wardrobes for their pets but for a doctor to go out of his way to help another person who doesn't want his advice is unusual. A doctor being so honest that he doesn't wrongly treat the dog and instead, just works on him by keeping him in his surgery and tracks his health by feeding him less and maintains a regular exercise schedule seems to be more of a fiction.

Q4. Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricki?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was worried about Tricki as Tricki was not eating anything, not even his favourite dishes. Tricki was vomiting and lied down on the rug, panting. He did not even want to go out for walks or anything.

Q5 What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?

Ans She calls the doctor to see him as he was unwell. Yes, she was wise this time as earlier, she was acting foolish by overfeeding him. The doctor told her that Tricki needed to be hospitalized. She was crying over it but later accepted that she needed to listen to the doctor.

Q6 Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans "I" refers to the narrator who is a veterinary doctor, Mr. Herriot.

Q7 Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?

Ans According to the story, the narrator is not as rich as Mrs. Pumphrey because Mr. Herriott is able to provide Tricki with a box bed whereas in Mrs. Pumphrey's house he has his own bed, different bowls to eat and servants at his disposal. Then Tricki's mistress used to send two dozen eggs, wine and brandy everyday for Tricki's recovery. Towards the end of chapter, Tricki's mistress comes in 30 feet of gleaming black metal which is obviously a luxury car. So, it can be seen that Tricki's mistress used to live a very luxurious life in comparison to the narrator.

Q8 How does he treat the dog?

Ans He treats the dog very well. He knows that Tricki does not need medicinal treatment but requires a change in his lifestyle. He gives him only water for two days and then he sees that Tricki has started licking the empty food bowls and started mixing up with other dogs. Then he gives him food and Tricki starts to recover well. Then soon after living there for a few days, he is much better and goes back home.

Q9 Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?

Ans He is tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest because Mrs. Pumphrey wants Tricki to recover quickly. So she used to send two dozen eggs, wine bottles and brandy everyday. Mr. Herriot knew that there was no need of giving Tricki all that so he used to eat the extra eggs and drink the wine with his partners. With all that food and drinks coming in, Mr. Herriot used to be very happy so he was tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest.

Q10 Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?

Ans Tricki had recovered completely in two weeks. He had been turned into a hard muscle animal. Upon seeing Mrs. Pumphrey, Tricki ran towards her, jumped on her lap and started licking her face. She was overwhelmed to see Tricki all well and so she says as a token of gratitude that it was "a triumph of surgery".
