A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

I was really worried about tricki this time. I had pulled up my car when I saw him in the street with his mistress and I was shocked at his appearance . He had become hugely fat , like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. His eyes bloodshot and rheumy , started straight ahead and his tounge lolled from his jows.

Mrs pumphrey hastened to explain , ‘He was so listless ,mr herriot . He seemed to have been no energy . I thought he must be suffering from malnutrition , so I have been giving him some little extras between meals to build him up, some malt and cod- liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night to make him sleep – nothing much really.

‘And did you cut down on the seemed to be so weak I head to relent . He does love cream cakes and chocolates so. I can’t bear to refuse him.

I looked down again at the little dog .That was the trouble . Trickis only foult was greed . He had never been known to refuse food. He would tackle a meal at any hour never of the day or night . And wondered about all the things mrs pumphrey hadn’t mentioned .

‘Are you giving him plenty walks with me as you can see, but Hodgkin , the gardener , has been down with lumbago. So there has been ring – throwing lately.

I tried to sound severe, now I really mean this . If you don’t cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill.

You must harden your heart and keep hands . Oh I will , mr Herriot . I ‘m sure you are right , but it is so difficult , so very difficult . She set off head down , along the road , as if determined to put the new regime into practice immediately.

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He struggled on drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn’t be long before I heard practice immediately.

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The expected call come within a few days. Mrs pumphrey was distraught . Tricki would eat nothing . Refused even his favourite dishes,and besides , he had bouts of vomiting . He spent all his time lying on a rug, painting . Didn’t want to go gor walks , didn’t want to go anything . I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period . I suggested that he be hospitalised for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.