

## 'Miracle' puppy born with six legs

11th March, 2021



Photo: Neel Veterinary Hospital Facebook Page

Amid the constant stream of bad news that fills our screens, a heart-warming tale comes from a hospital in Oklahoma, USA. A puppy born with severe abnormalities has survived its first week, and doctors are optimistic that she will live a healthy life. Skipper the puppy is

a cross-breed - she is a border collie and Australian shepherd mix. She was one of a litter of nine puppies. While her brothers and sisters came out "normal," Skipper was born with six legs and two tails. These are her most visible congenital conditions. She has others, including two pelvic regions, two lower urinary tracts and two reproductive regions. Her vet said that despite Skipper's condition, her organs are working "just fine".

Vets have called Skipper's survival a "miracle". The Neel Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma, where she was born, wrote: "She has survived longer than we suspect any other canine has....Published research does not indicate one that has been born alive...with her combination of congenital conditions." It added: "Skipper is a strong girl. She is able to scoot around just like a regular puppy." Neel added: "We think that she may have some things to overcome, but she is determined right now and thriving." The miracle puppy has her own Facebook page. It says: "She is currently at the correct weight for her age and accomplishing all of her milestones. She is following a path to a happy and healthy life."

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [wgntv.com](http://wgntv.com) / [sciencetimes.com](http://sciencetimes.com)

### Writing

All children should have a puppy to love. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

stream / bad news / heart-warming tale / hospital / puppy / optimistic / region / organ / survival / miracle / canine / research / overcome / thriving / weight / milestones

### True / False

- a) The article says a six-legged puppy was bad news. T / F
- b) The article says the puppy survived its first month. T / F
- c) The puppy has eight siblings. T / F
- d) Vets say the puppy's organs are working fine. T / F
- e) The puppy was born on the streets. T / F
- f) A vet said the puppy is very weak at the moment. T / F
- g) The vet said the puppy is unable to walk. T / F
- h) The puppy is the correct weight for her age. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>constant</b>            | a. marvel      |
| 2. <b>tale</b>                | b. noticeable  |
| 3. <b>bothers and sisters</b> | c. conquer     |
| 4. <b>visible</b>             | d. story       |
| 5. <b>regions</b>             | e. reckon      |
| 6. <b>miracle</b>             | f. flourishing |
| 7. <b>suspect</b>             | g. areas       |
| 8. <b>overcome</b>            | h. non-stop    |
| 9. <b>thriving</b>            | i. fulfilling  |
| 10. <b>accomplishing</b>      | j. siblings    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of miracles?
- b) Have you ever witnessed a miracle?
- c) What miracles would you like to happen?
- d) Do you prefer to read about bad or good news?
- e) What do you think about puppies?
- f) Which are cuter - puppies or kittens?
- g) How will the puppy live life with six legs?
- h) What advice do you have for the puppy's owner?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Amid the constant                   | a. and thriving       |
| 2. A puppy born with severe            | b. of nine puppies    |
| 3. doctors are optimistic that         | c. are working        |
| 4. She was one of a litter             | d. abnormalities      |
| 5. her organs                          | e. a path             |
| 6. Vets have called Skipper's survival | f. milestones         |
| 7. she may have some things            | g. stream of bad news |
| 8. she is determined right now         | h. to overcome        |
| 9. accomplishing all of her            | i. she will live      |
| 10. She is following                   | j. a "miracle"        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to work as a vet?
- What do you think a vet does every day?
- How strong are you?
- What things in life have you overcome?
- What milestones have you passed in life?
- How can we get on a path to a happy life?
- What questions would you like to ask the vet?

## Spelling

- Amid the nctsoant stream of bad news
- born with severe aobmailntreis
- doctors are mtiipstsoic
- her most visible engnotical conditions
- two lower uanrry tracts
- two prodcuetrvie regions
- called Skipper's rsivual a "miracle"
- we uspscet any other canine has
- research does not dicinate one that has
- some things to oorvceme
- determined right now and igtnihrv
- agscoicilnhpm all of her milestones

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. f	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Dogs

You think dogs are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, rabbits or sheep.

### Role B – Goldfish

You think goldfish are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): dogs, rabbits or sheep.

### Role C – Rabbits

You think rabbits are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, dogs or sheep.

### Role D – Sheep

You think sheep are the best pets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their pets. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goldfish, rabbits or dogs.

## Speaking – Pets

Rank these with your partner. Put the best pet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| • dog      | • iguana   |
| • goldfish | • sheep    |
| • cat      | • tortoise |
| • rabbit   | • parrot   |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.