

Puppies for Sale

One day, a farmer had some puppies which he needed to sell. He made a sign advertising the puppies and put it on the gate. As he walked back to the farm, he heard a little boy shouting at him. He returned to the gate and looked down into the eyes of the little boy. "Excuse me sir," the boy said, "I want to buy one of your puppies." "Well," said the farmer, "these puppies come from pedigree parents and are very expensive to buy." The boy looked disappointed. Then he suddenly put his hand in his pocket and pulled out some coins. "I have thirty-nine cents. Is that enough?" The farmer felt pity for the boy and said "Of course." So he took the boy to the farmhouse and showed him the mother, Dolly, and four tiny beautiful puppies running behind her. The little boy opened his eyes wide with pleasure and started to dance with happiness. As the puppies moved around, the little boy noticed that one of them was moving very slowly and wobbly. It was clearly much weaker than the others. "I want that one," said the little boy. The farmer knelt down next to the boy and said, "My son, you don't want that puppy. He can't run and play with you like the other dogs, because he has a deformed leg. Slowly, the little boy stepped back, pulled up one leg of his trousers. The farmer saw a steel brace on both sides of his leg which was attached to a special shoe. The boy looked at the farmer and said "You see sir, I can't run very well, and the puppy needs someone who can understand him.". The farmer smiled and let the boy take the small puppy home.

Questions

1. How much did the boy have in his pocket?
2. How many puppies did the farmer have?
3. Why did the boy choose the weakest puppy?