

Vladimir Demikhov

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) “Vladimir P. Demikhov was born in a Russian peasant family in 1916. As a biology student at The Moscow University in 1937, he constructed a metal artificial heart and maintained the circulation of a dog for 5.5 hours. From 1946, after his military service, he worked in the Surgical Institute of The Moscow Academy of Sciences performing heterotopic heart transplantations in dogs.”(Rob Langer, “Vladimir P. Demikhov, a pioneer of organ transplantation”, ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

In 1954 he performed a head transplantation, He then started growing in popularity world wide. To defend him from any accusations stalinist propoganda called this a superiority of Soviet science. He actually surgically put upper body of a smaller dog to the neck of a bigger one. The two heads could eat and drink separately.

Here's a fun fact, In order to surgically create the two-headed dog, Demikhov used a small dog named Shavka and a bigger dog picked up from the streets. Demikhov named the bigger dog as Brodyaga. But he could not accept any rejection, so he kept on doing these horrible surgeries on helpless dogs. The longest survival was around 1 month among 20 such operations.

Vladimir left this world on November 22, 1998. Although he left this world in a stage of poverty, I believe that almost all of us will have a better life without him being here. He was a very brave and powerful person but his popularity started declining.