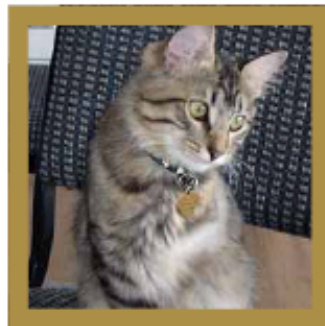
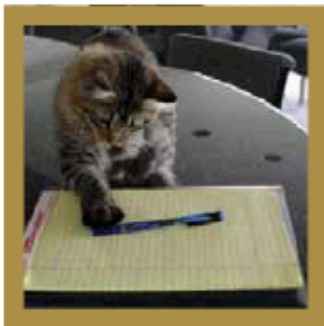


When Fate Steps In On Three Legs

By Michelle Danks-Costello
Photos provided by Cathy Conheim



Have you had things happen in your life that you knew weren't accidents? Whatever your beliefs, I feel that things in life happen for a reason. Take my beautiful dog Francis for example. She came into my life for a reason and without her; I would have never been inspired to create this magazine.

A simple twist of fate changed my life in a major way.

Well, that's exactly what happened to Cathy Conheim, a self-proclaimed dog lover and psychotherapist, when Henry jm (just me) entered her life. Cathy had never been fond of cats, but allowed a litter of kittens to live on her property in Julian, Calif., where she kept them well fed and sheltered. One day, she noticed one of the kittens was missing and when they found Henry; his front leg was lifeless and dangling. Cathy and longtime friend Donna, rushed him to the veterinarian. Little did they know then, but their meeting would change their lives and the lives of thousands of people all over the world.

Cathy and Donna had seriously considered putting Henry down when they took the injured kitten to the vet, but when they looked into the purring kitten's eyes they started to tear up. They both agreed to help the innocent little guy in anyway possible and it wasn't the cost of the surgery that made them hesitate, it was what they were going to do with him afterward that had them worried. Thousands of dollars later, Henry came home with Cathy and Donna, minus a front leg.

Amazed that they allowed a "cat" to live with them, let alone a three-legged one, Cathy sent an e-mail to family and friends sharing their story. What happened next was a chain of e-mails that reached thousands of people that were inspired by Henry's tale and started e-mailing the feline about their own personal stories of tragedy and triumphs. Cathy, the official "cat scribe" for Henry, started replying to all the letters he received and soon the unlikely pair was working to heal people through the internet.

"Henry has taught us about acceptance and love," said Cathy. "He inspires others to transcend the bias and barriers we encounter in our lives." Henry receives nearly 100 e-mails a day from all over the world and Cathy spends between 8-12 hours answering every single one of them.

"I believe Henry was sent to me to help others in a way I would have never thought possible," said Cathy, who spent 33 years practicing psychotherapy. "Tragedies abound in this world and people feel as if they can't make a difference. Henry teaches people that just because you cannot do everything is no excuse for doing nothing."

Together Henry and Cathy have helped animals and people financially and emotionally through e-mails and through the sale of their published books, *Henry's World* and *What's the Matter with Henry? The True Tale of a Three-Legged Cat*. All the proceeds are donated to animal rescue groups, animal welfare organizations, zoos, children's hospitals and soon to children displaced by Hurricane Katrina and children of military personnel.

Henry's story has some Las Vegas connections as well. Lisa Hammond, founder of Las Vegas-based Femail Creations (www.femailcreations.com), generously featured Henry's book in their Holiday Catalog, where they sold over 2,000 copies. Lisa chose Noah's Animal House,



Las Vegas' first and only safe haven for pets of abused women and children at the Shade Tree Shelter, as the beneficiary of the proceeds. Cathy sent a check as well as copies of the books for Noah's Animal House to sell. I purchased the book at a charity event last November and now here we are telling his story to inspire others.

"It was the vision of Lisa Hammond to include Henry's book in her holiday catalog," said Cathy. "Because of that, it has created this circle of energy that's reached Las Vegas."

Henry's next project is giving hope to children through First Book in Washington, DC, where Henry's books will be donated to children of the gulf region who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina.

Cathy is planning a third edition of What's the Matter with Henry? where she has added more pages including kibbles and bits of advice and life lessons from me (Henry). First Book is working to donate thousands of these books to children of Katrina. Donations are needed to help with this venture and can be made through the Athena Foundation at 5411 Bahia Lane, La Jolla, CA 92037.

"This is an opportunity to reach thousands of children who lost everything during Katrina including books," said Cathy. "Henry's story is meant to inspire children of all ages through his courage and determination and provide a story of hope that is in short supply in the gulf region."

Children of the gulf region aren't the only ones who will receive Henry's story of hope. Cathy is currently working with the director of the Armed Services YMCA to bring Henry's books to children of military families. "We hope Henry's story will help children whose parents may have been injured in the war explore thoughts and feelings about disabilities," said Cathy. "His message of healing will help so many families of the armed services."

Henry's tale is for all of us, young and old. He reminds us that we are defined not by our misfortunes, but by our responses to them. His message is one of hope, resilience, perseverance, and above all, love.

"Through his gentle example, Henry demonstrates the compelling nature of vulnerability and power of the two most powerful words in our language: "Help Me", said Cathy. "Henry extends his remaining front paw to help animals everywhere and promotes interspecies harmony. We can make a difference one person, one animal, and one dollar at a time." 🐾

To learn more about how you can help Henry reach his goal of raising \$1 million for animals and children, visit www.HenrysWorld.org for donations or product orders of his books and other items. You can also visit Lucky Dog Magazine at www.luckydogmag.com to order his book where a portion of the proceeds will benefit animal and children organizations here in Las Vegas.

To Tink, with Love, From Henry

Roses are Red

Violets are Blue

My new love's a dog

Her legs are but two

Together we play,

We more than have fun

She bounces to find me

Boy, can she run!

Some say we're disabled

But not Tink and I

We play like all others

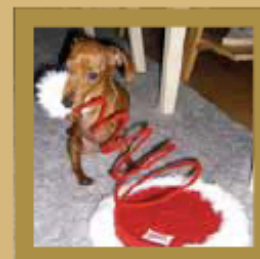
The time it does fly

She stands on two legs

And I stand on just three

Two kindred spirits,

Tink and Just Me



For those that "tink" Tink
Is not more than just swift
Let me remind you
To me she's a gift

What limbs one's
endowed with
Is not really the point
It's what's in our hearts
That our souls do anoint

So Tink is my playmate
And also my love
A two-legged doggie
Sent down from above

Forget what is missing
Be here and now
Count all your blessings
We'll show you how

So all you dear humans
Who come watch us play
Remember what matters
Live fully each day!