

It was in 2004 after the worst fires in California's history that four feral kittens came to the Julian property of Dr. Donna Brooks and Cathy Conheim. Both devoted "dog only" people, they were sure there would never be room in their life for a cat. But in the months following the fire, many needed housing and they were happy to share their second home with those in need. One family, who is still there today, asked if their little girl could have a kitty—that is where Henry's journey began: a four-legged healthy feral kitten with three sisters arrived in Pine Hills. The following week, he had some sort of accident and was dragging his left paw uselessly behind him. A quick trip to the Julian veterinarian made the plight of the kitty clear: euthanasia or amputation. If amputation was the choice, he could no longer be an outdoor mountain cat; he would need an indoor home. It didn't seem possible that he could find his home with this dog-only family, but that seemed to be the only option—at least while recovering from surgery. Poor kitty, he was so shocked to be in the world where he was confined, where he could no longer play in his leaves and climb trees, that "he" wrote a letter to 20 of his new family's friends describing this strange new move in his life. They sent the letter out for him, and those receiving it sent it on to others. More letters followed, more fans of Henry were collected. Henry landed in a home of healers, so he was destined to join the family profession. It was explained to him that most animals would not have had the benefit of the amputation and getting a permanent home, so his role was to give back to those less fortunate than he.

Fast forward to 2010...Henry has answered over 45,000 letters and written tens of thousands of other documents. Henry wore out the paw of his faithful scribe, Mom Cathy, who has just undergone her third hand surgery to reconstruct the hand damaged from all the computer work. Paws crossed that three is the charm and she will regain the use of her thumb.

Henry has his own website: www.henrysworld.org. He and his sister Dollydog have books, workbooks, as well as many other educational materials. Three songs have been written



*Henry and his plush toy clone
story and photos from Cathy Conheim*

for them and crocheted replicas of Henry, Dolly, and their friend Tink are used in the classroom. And since joining cyberspace, Henry has a Facebook page and even an iPhone/iPad app now in development.

Over 45,000 of Henry's books are out in the world with all the profits going to help animals and humans in need. Henry's book, *What's the Matter with Henry?* and the accompanying workbook raises the questions which lead to the discoveries of love and hope. The companion book *What About Me? I'm Here Too!* addresses the issues of the siblings who feel invisible and lost when someone in the family is in need. Told through Henry's sister, Dolly the dog, *What About Me? I'm Here Too!* speaks of the feelings of confusion, insecurity, and loss as the daily life of attention, walks and treats is taken over by bandages, medicine and pain. Henry and Dolly's workbooks teach understanding and acceptance. Their important lessons are summarized as "Kibbles for Thought:"

Hate is learned
Hard things happen
Be true to who you are
Play the hand you are dealt
Connect with what you care about
Accept your feelings
Share your feelings with someone who loves you
Ask for help
Nobody's perfect
Feelings can change
Henry jm (just me) now has an impressive five page resume, more than anyone else in his family! He has been a busy boy in the past five and half years. His second award winning book has been translated into Creole to help with the children's amputee

project in Haiti. He has inspired 500 outstanding art pieces by elementary school children in Sacramento. But his greatest honor came last week when he was voted Cat of the Year 2010 the ASPCA. This November 11th, at a luncheon at the Pierre Hotel in NY, a little Julian hometown boy will receive his honors. He is particularly pleased to have this award, as the goals and objectives of the ASPCA are dear to his heart. He hopes he can help them and other animals through the publicity that comes from such an honor.

Visit him and write to him at www.henrysworld.org, a great place to do all your Christmas and special occasion shopping: humans get the benefit of his wisdom and animals get the cash!

