

Worksheet 1. Reading 1: *Rescue Ink*

Read the passage about a group of men who do good deeds. Then review the glossary and complete the exercises that follow it.

1 In New York City, there is a special group of tough men who rescue animals. These men
2 have tattoos, ride motorcycles and hot rods, and wear a lot of leather clothes. Their image
3 is tough, but all the men share a tenderness for animals, and their mission is to save
4 abandoned or abused animals.

5 The men met each other in biker groups or at tattoo conventions. All of them were acting
6 individually, but after they discovered that they shared a common interest—their love of
7 animals—they formed a group and called it Rescue Ink. (Rescue is what they do, and *ink*
8 has a double meaning: *Inc.* is a common abbreviation that means *incorporated*, and *ink*
9 also refers to tattoo ink.) Now they are working together and saving animals like this:

- 10 • They look for animals that are alone or badly treated, and rescue them.
- 11 • They obtain veterinary care for the animals.
- 12 • They find homes for the animals.
- 13 • They build dog houses for dogs that have to live outside.
- 14 • They visit schools and educate children to be kind to animals.
- 15 • They encourage the public to notify them of animals in bad situations.

16 Some of the men work at regular jobs, and some are retired. One is a former bodybuilding
17 champion with a shaved head, bright blue eyes, and huge arms covered with tattoos of
18 animals. He is also a vegetarian. Another—a large, 47-year-old man with dark hair and a
19 neat goatee—is a retired police detective. Another is a former bodyguard. One 74-year-old,
20 retired automobile mechanic holds a weightlifting record. He has a shaved head and a
21 skinny, black ponytail. Another is a professional firefighter. A restaurant caterer organized
22 the men and works from his office; he receives calls—as many as 250 a day—and
23 dispatches the men on the road.

24 The group happily accepts donations—money from friends and supporters—but the men
25 donate their services. In fact, a couple of the men are working so hard for Rescue Ink that
26 they lost their regular construction jobs. All of these men are passionate about their mission
27 and are gaining a lot of satisfaction from their volunteer work. They are heroes.



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Glossary

Line 2 *tattoo* — a picture or writing that's put on your skin permanently by needle and ink.

Line 2 *hot rod* — an old car that has a new, powerful engine to make it go faster

Line 3 *mission* — a strong purpose that is stated

Line 4 *abandoned* — left alone by someone

Line 4 *abused* — treated in a cruel manner

Line 5 *biker* — a person in a group that rides motorcycles

Line 5 *convention* — large meeting of a group with a special interest

Line 11 *veterinary* — relating to the care of animals

Line 19 *goatee* — a small pointed beard at the end of a man's chin

Line 19 *bodyguard* — a person with the job of defending the life of another individual

Line 21 *ponytail* — hair tied together at the back of the head and falling like a horse's tail

Line 21 *caterer* — a person or company that provides food and beverages for events

Line 26 *construction* — the business of building something large, like a house, an office building, etc.



Comprehension practice

Decide whether each sentence is true or false, according to the reading. Circle T if the sentence is true and F if the sentence is false.

1. A group of tough men in New York City takes good care of animals. T / F
2. These men are professional veterinarians. T / F
3. The men have known each other all their lives. T / F
4. The name of their group is Rescue Ink. T / F
5. They conduct educational programs in schools. T / F
6. All of the men have regular jobs. T / F
7. One of the men is a firefighter. T / F
8. Rescue Ink pays the men. T / F
9. People donate money to Rescue Ink. T / F
10. The men in the group are happy with their volunteer jobs. T / F