**Subject area/course**: ELA

**Grade level/band**: 3-4

**Task source**: New Hampshire Task Bank; Authors: Donna Gilbert and Sarah Howard

**Animal Rescue**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

*Essential questions:* How can I use evidence from texts to support my opinion? How do I weigh the pros and cons, risks and benefits to form my opinion?

*Task prompt:* *Do you think it is wise for people to help animals who may need rescuing or is it harmful to interfere?*

Carefully read over this performance task independently and with a highlighter or pen in hand. Circle any words, phrases or sentences that you do not understand. Underline any directions or information that you have questions about. Draw a star next to important directions that you will need to remember. We will meet to discuss these directions in 10 minutes. If you finish reading these directions, reread the performance task to better understand what you will be doing. You will have an opportunity to ask questions when we gather as a class. Our timeline, rubrics, opinion writing piece exemplars, and additional resources will be shared with you at this time.

1. **Final product**:

*Directions to Students*:

* You will be given four different texts, written either to persuade you that helping animals in need is good for them or to inform you of the dangers of helping animals in need.
* As you read, you will take notes on the provided graphic organizer and highlight or underline information that helps you form your opinion.
* Once you have read the texts, you will develop your own opinion based upon the evidence gathered by you, the Super Sleuth.
* You will create an opinion-writing piece based upon the evidence you have collected stating whether you believe that is wise for people to help animals in need or whether you believe that helping animals in need is dangerous. In other words, if you came upon an animal in need, would you help it? You need to use at least three pieces of evidence from at least two different texts. Be sure to cite evidence that you use.
* You will write at least 2 drafts in order to craft your best work and allow for revision and editing. Your opinion writing piece drafts must be handwritten but you have choice in your final product. Your final product can be handwritten, typed, created in app such as Keynote or Book Creator, as a letter, or as an editorial piece often seen in newspapers. Your teacher will be available to help guide you in choosing the format that will showcase your strengths and style the best.
* Finally, you will share your opinion-writing piece with the class and take part in a whole class discussion weighing the pros and cons, risks and benefits of helping animals in need. Be ready to share your opinion and cite evidence from the texts to support your point of view.
* Conference with the teacher to decide how you will share your work.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

**Essential Knowledge**

* Opinion Writing Technique
* Supporting an opinion with evidence from given resources
* Citing sources when writing
* Evaluating pros and cons, risk and benefit, to form an opinion.

**Essential Skills**

* Identifying important information in a text.
* Taking notes of important information to help form an opinion.
* Using notes to create an opinion-writing piece that is clear, organized and includes evidence from the resources.
* Using grade level appropriate vocabulary and writing mechanics to produce high quality writing.
1. **Materials needed:**
* Texts:
	+ Grade 3 Scott Foresman Sleuth- *A Whale of a Rescue*,
	+ *Four Reasons Not to Feed Wildlife*-from Humane Society.org;
	+ *Rescuers Use Knives, poles, and GPS to Free Tangled Whale* from NewsELA and
	+ *Putting Panthers Back into Florida’s Forests* from News ELA.
* Pros and Cons Graphic Organizer
* Highlighters
* Performance Task Schedule (Nuts and Bolts Document/Instructional Materials)
1. **Time requirements:**

This task is designed to take about ten days. Your teacher will provide you with more information about the timing for completing each part of the task.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Animal Rescue Opinion Writing rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.