## Suicidal Squirrels

1. Verb
2. Noun
3. Noun
4. Noun
5. Plural Noun
6. Noun
7. Noun
8. Body Part
9. Plural Noun
10. Verb Ending In Ing $\qquad$
11. Verb Ending In Ing
12. Verb Ending In Ing
13. Adjective
14. Plural Noun
15. Adjective
16. Adjective
17. Adjective
18. Plural Noun
19. Noun
20. Noun
21. Noun
22. Plural Noun
23. Adjective
24. Verb Ending In Ing
25. Plural Noun
26. Noun
27. Verb Ending In Ing
28. Noun
29. Past Tense Verb
30. Past Tense Verb
31. Adjective
32. Adjective
33. Verb Ending In Ing
34. Noun
35. Adjective
36. Noun
37. Plural Noun

## Suicidal Squirrels

I went out to $\qquad$ yesterday afternoon and was getting out of my $\qquad$ just as the vet's zoomed past the $\qquad$ . When I arrived at the $\qquad$ the vet, the farrier, the manager, and several other volunteers and boarders were doing their best to get Bella up. She went down about an hour before I got there, and the farrier and $\qquad$ manager were right there and at her side instantly. Bella suffered nerve damage in her $\qquad$ from West Nile, and then, a year later, managed to survive EPM but not without lingering severe neurological problems. Two other rescues rejected her before she made it to us, and I guess we have a weakness for retired, damaged $\qquad$ . She had a lot of trouble $\qquad$ but, through massages and physical $\qquad$ was sound enough to enjoy many years at the rescue $\qquad$ with the other mares in pasture and getting love from all her $\qquad$ friends. Often she would roll and need help moving her hind legs into position to stand up again, but she always got up on the first or second try!

Yesterday, however, was very different. It looked and felt as if her legs were petrified- we could not move them into position for her, and after a couple attempts she stopped putting much $\qquad$ into it. By the time got there, she looked completely $\qquad$ and was barely lifting her head. The decision was made to put her down, and it was a $\qquad$ one to be present for. Always a fighter, Bella was on her side, whinnying
to her friends, 'running' with her front legs, and looked each of us in the eye before she calmed down, took a few breathes, and was still as the last dose was administered. As the vet said, not many can survive West Nile AND EPM, then live a happily into their late teens with the severe neurological damage Bella willfully pushed through!

2009 has been a hard year for many, and the $\qquad$ was no exception. In addition to three of our 33+ year olds, our 29 year old $\qquad$ and Bella all passing on, we saw four horses return to the rescue after their owners could no longer afford their $\qquad$ two of whom came back sick but thankfully in good weight. This year, we have had so many horses in need that we perpetually had horses in iso pens, boarding spaces, and even turned out with boarders' horses.

On the plus side, we participated in a nation-wide effort to save 300 starving $\qquad$ and our two boys are looking $\qquad$ and have started groundwork training with a professional who has volunteered his time! The downturn in the economy left us with some very nice $\qquad$ who were adopted before they left iso, and many volunteers finally had the chance to adopt a $\qquad$ that met
their $\qquad$ _needs. We took in a $\qquad$ from a kill pen who, at four years old, has grown more than 6' now that she's being properly $\qquad$ We took in a horse who had been along the highway and was severely underweight, but clearly well-trained, and watched him
transform into a $\qquad$ sound gelding who will make someone a very $\qquad$
$\qquad$ . And, thanks to the $\qquad$ spring, $\qquad$ down enough that we could still afford to take in all the extra $\qquad$ in need :-).

