

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

indispensable touted forage deterrent impaired sustainable
nocturnal stringent hailed cajoled sought-after

Bat Librarians



The baroque Joanina Library at the University of Coimbra in Portugal is well known for its exquisitely detailed gilding and woodwork, and also for its inhabitants: bats. They have been there for 300 years and provide an 1) _____ service. There are many bug species known to gnaw on paper, and pose a major danger to old books and priceless manuscripts. Thankfully, the bats, that call this place home, act as a form of natural pest 2) _____. They are 3) _____, so they don't bother library visitors

during the day, but as soon as the sun sets, they start coming out from behind the old book stands and feast on insects right before swooping out of the building through the open windows in search of water. It's no wonder that they are 4) _____ as "honorary librarians".

Winemaking Ducks



South Africa's viniculture [*'vɪnɪ,kʌltʃə*] industry employs around 270,000 people, producing some of the world's most 4) _____ wines. But not all jobs are best left to humans. Inspired by ducks used to remove pests from rice paddies in Asia, the winery [*'waɪn(ə)rɪ*] calls on the services of some 1,600 ducks as part of its effort to make wine production more 5) _____. The Indian runner duck is flightless, with a peculiarly upright stance and highly developed sense of smell. The duck troops are 6) _____ on a 14-day outing through the vineyard, eating aphids, snails, small worms and fertilizing the ground as they go. The ducks' "annual holiday" takes place during the harvest – they'd eat the grapes. During this time, they 7) _____ on open farm pasture, swim in a nearby lake and undergo selective breeding. Duck eggs are consumed in the vineyard restaurant, but never the ducks themselves – that would be like eating a colleague.

Miniature Guide Horses

Miniature horses have been recently 5) _____ as great therapy animals — but they're also increasingly in use as guides for the visually 6) _____ and the blind. But why not the more common guide dog? Miniature horses are ideal service animals for people who are allergic to dogs or who don't want to go through the heartbreak of losing a pet every 10 years. Miniature horses have been known to live 30 to 40 years, meaning that a handler may only need one individual companion for most of his or her life. They go through a 7) _____

veterinary examination for soundness and stamina, including an intelligence test. Selected horses then go through basic lead training and voice commands. While guide horses are legally allowed to go anywhere, they are not recommended as guides for urban dwellers who might rely on public transit too much. However, guide horses are comfortable in airplanes, buses, escalators, elevators and stairs, among other obstacles. When off-duty, guide horses live outside, and the Foundation sends a companion horse along for every working partnership to accommodate the horse as a herd animal.

