

SOLUTION

ANATOMY

Each of the puzzle answers can have a letter replaced with a body part(s) to form a word described in the checklist. In top-to-bottom order of body part (as per the zombie diagram provided):

Puzzle	Answer	Modified answer	Letter
Buddy System	BIRDS	BIRDBRAIN	S
Sightings	WORE	EYESORE	W
Evolution	HYPES	HYPNOSES	E
Dietary Intake	ETON	LIPTON	E
Hunting	TOOK	CHINOOK	T
Ranged Weapons	HALLEY	BACKALLEY	H
Neurology	PANELING	PANHANDLING	E
Pursuit	DAILY	DREARILY	A
Mental Ability	OUTRE	OUTSHINE	R
Natural Enemies	TART	TARHEEL	T
Circles	TICTACS	TIC-TAC-TOE	S

These replaced letters spell the meta answer, and the cause of the zombie outbreak:
SWEETHEARTS.