

Do you love animals? Have you ever thought about a career helping animals?

You might think about studying to become a veterinarian.

But, there are other ways to work with animals, too.

Dr. Mary Temple Grandin is an expert on animal behavior.

She has invented many machines for the safe handling of animals.

What makes her truly unique is that her achievements have come while living with autism.



(Mary) Temple Grandin

Animal Science/Inventor

Dr. Temple Grandin was diagnosed with autism at two years old. Many people with autism find social situations difficult. There is a range of behaviors on a spectrum of how much they challenge a person in everyday life. She didn't start speaking at the age most children do. Hearing certain types of sounds is very stressful for her, even as an adult. Her parents worked hard to make sure that she received therapy and took classes to help her learn.

Dr. Temple Grandin thinks that autism has helped her with her inventions. She is a photo-realistic visual thinker. That means that she can “see” her exact inventions in her mind before she makes them. She can even test them out in her mind. Other famous artists, inventors, scientists, and musicians also live with autism. Dr. Temple Grandin—and others—think that autism may be important to their creativity.

When she was young, Dr. Grandin was considered weird. In fact, some people who seem socially awkward or weird may be very smart. Dr. Temple Grandin is one of those people. She was bullied and teased. This led her to form close relationships with animals. The pain she felt from bullying made her want to protect animals from being treated badly. So what did she do? She studied animals carefully. She made close observations of how animals behave. Using that information, she designed machines and systems to help control animals in situations that are stressful for them. It is estimated that half of the cattle in the U.S. are handled in facilities that she has designed.



continued on next page

The restraints she developed keep animals calm. This can prevent them from getting hurt and is also more humane. If people eat beef or pork or lamb, then animals that were once alive need to be killed. Dr. Temple Grandin's reason for inventing systems to treat animals humanely in life and in death is: "We've got to give those animals a decent life and we've got to give them a painless death. We owe the animal respect." Many of her inventions are designed to treat animals calmly and to put them to death painlessly.

Dr. Grandin earned a Ph.D. in animal science and now teaches at Colorado State University. She is a role model for her students and for future scientists and inventors everywhere. It is easy to see how she turned her passion into a career that has changed how animals are handled by the people who raise them.

Works Cited

"Dr. Temple Grandin." Famous Women Inventors. n.d., www.women-inventors.com/Dr.-Temple-Grandin.asp. Accessed 8 Feb. 2018.

Temple Grandin, Ph.D. RDC Design Group, 2012, <http://templegrandin.com/>. Accessed 8 Feb. 2018.

"Temple Grandin-Quotes." Good Reads. n.d., www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/1567.Temple_Grandin. Accessed 8. Feb. 2018.

"Temple Grandin." Biography. n.d., www.biography.com/people/temple-grandin-38062. Accessed 8 Feb. 2018.