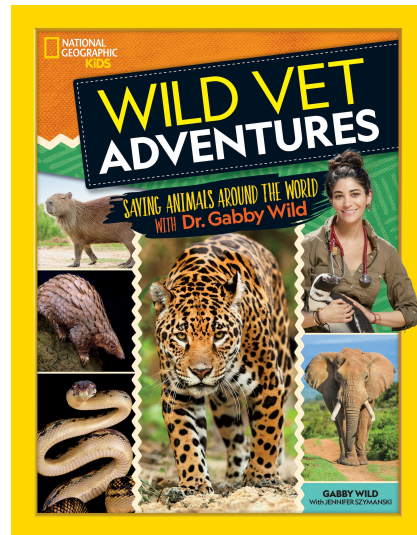
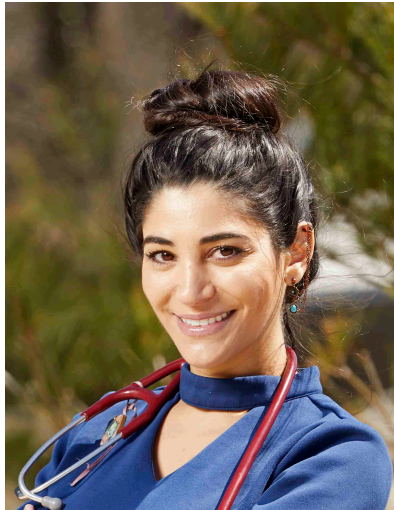


Q&A DR. GABBY WILD



Dr. Gabby Wild has traveled the world to save animals. From pioneering elephant acupuncture to treating Jane Goodall's chimpanzees in Uganda, past collaborations include top international conservation organizations, zoos, universities and museums. She is the founder of the Gabby Wild Foundation 501(c)(3) which implements veterinary medicine, conservation methods, and educational campaigns in protection of the world's most endangered animals.

She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Cornell University, Master's of Public Health from the University of Minnesota, and is also a published genetics researcher.

American-born and raised shortly there after in France and later in Boca Raton, FL when Dr. Wild is not traveling to save animals, she is an emergency room doctor and veterinary surgeon at The Animal Surgical Center on Long Island.

Q: March 3rd is UN World Wildlife Day. What fact do you most want people to know?

DR. GABBY WILD: 26% of all mammals are at risk of extinction, 41% of all amphibians are at risk of extinction, 30% of sharks and manta rays are at risk, and 13% of all birds species are at risk. A lot of people around the world are working to reverse these trends.

Q: What are the most unusual patients you have ever looked after?

GW: Tarantulas and octopuses are at the top of the list. I find hellbenders incredible (these ones I work with more frequently). To look at, I think that coapi and tapirs take the cake. Each time I examine them it looks like multiple animal puzzle pieces have been combined to create a new animal, when in fact they are a species all their own.

Q: What are your top scariest vet experiences?

GW: #1 is definitely when a jaguar's root canal was suddenly halted by a storm when the anesthesia equipment lost power.

Not to be overshadowed by when I was asked to take care of an Armenian viper at the St. Louis Zoo and on my first day I was too embarrassed to tell them that I am afraid of snakes. Instinctive tears went down my face as I gave it an antibiotic injection in the tail while the technician managed the venomous end.

(over)



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Q: Favorite animal quirk you have learned during your vet studies or in the field?

GW: All of them have their own quirks and I learned I need to do something different with each species. If I want to catch a coatimundi, they really like certain men's colognes. So my trick is to simply spritz a bit into the air and wait for them to come hurling at me.

Q: If someone visits you at work, what kind of experiences would surprise them the most?

GW: 1) Anesthetizing howler monkeys using a small dart
2) Developing and carrying out chasing strategies for wolf puppies so I can vaccinate them
3) Mimicking a mother crow to feed an injured baby

Q: Favorite animals?

GW: Dogs followed by horses. Dogs have adapted to understand our emotions, needs, and how to work together. Horses similarly have been shown to be able to read facial expressions. They also are able to develop a bond, work together with us towards similar goals. There are a variety of reasons why one might love horses, but for me it is more than simply because I love the sport — I love and bond with my mare, Bu. I began raising her when she was one years old, and although it may have appeared as though I was training her, she was the one who has most likely taught me more.

The reason for my love of dogs is the ever-always companionship and loyalty. My little chihuahua, Pixie Dust, is ever at my heels. The connection she feels for me is something that only another dog or cat owner can understand due to actually living in the same domicile where you share so many personal moments together.

For wild animals, it's very difficult to pick a favorite. If someone forced me to pick, I would have to choose elephants. It was a particular baby elephant named Khun Chai that inspired me to become a wildlife vet when I visited Thailand as a teen.

Q: Top 5 amazing animal facts from the book that you would like to share?

GW: Although kinkajous have small ears, their hearing is sensitive enough to hear a snake slithering through a tree

Ibex can jump up to six feet in the air without a running start and their hoof shape allows them to literally climb walls

Pangolins are the only mammals that have scales

Sumatran rhinos are the closest living relative to the extinct woolly mammoth

Although very unsuspecting, platypus produce venom from hollow spurs from their hind legs. It makes it fun doing an examination on these guys when they don't want you to (not to worry though, the venom isn't fatal to humans)!

WILD VET ADVENTURES: SAVING ANIMALS AROUND THE WORLD WITH DR. GABBY WILD by Dr. Gabby Wild (National Geographic Kids Books) Juvenile, hardcover non-fiction; \$19.99; 192 pages; ISBN 9781426338601; Ages 8-12; On sale March 2021



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