



Get ready to Meet GABBY Wild;

FASHION DESIGNER, SCIENTIST AND WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN!

GABBY IS EXCITED TO SHARE HER LOVE OF ALL THINGS WILD WITH YOU! SHE EVEN HAS HER OWN ANIMAL HOSPITAL IN THE HIT GAME, ANIMAL JAM!

ABOUT GABBY

Gabby founded The Gabby Wild Foundation in 2011 to help protect the rarest animals on the planet. She has traveled the world saving animals using her veterinary skills. Some of the amazing places she has traveled to include: Thailand to work with elephants, Indonesia to protect rhinos, Africa to study baboons, Alaska to tend Iditarod sled dogs, Belize to treat jaguars, and Ireland to aid horses.

Gabby has also rocked the catwalk as a fashion model and an activist by using fashion campaigns to raise awareness for her furry (and bald) friends. Her first fashion campaign included outfits inspired by 12 of some of the world's most endangered creatures and these creations were brought to life by Lifetime's Project Runway designers.

Gabby is also the wildlife conservationist and veterinarian of Animal Jam, the world's largest online playground for kids, and is a featured problem solver on NBC's TV show GIVE. The TV show features her foundation's main mission in Sumatra, Indonesia to protect the last of the critically endangered species on this Indonesian island such as the Sumatran elephant, Sumatran tiger, and Sumatran rhino.

When not in the wild, Gabby is in the lab conducting animal research. And you thought your schedule was busy! Learn more about how she turned her passion for animals into a career in the interview below and prepare to be inspired!



Q+A WITH GABBY WILD

1 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN AND ANIMAL LOVER?

I have always been an animal lover! Even when I was very young I would see any animal and go absolutely "gaga" for them. However, becoming a veterinarian is something quite different. It is a role that requires tremendous courage, patience, and selflessness. Since I was 4 years old I absolutely loved taking care of injured wildlife or following veterinarians because I loved playing the role of doctor, and it felt so right to be helping animals. My greatest inspiration to pursue medicine was my own father, who was an infectious disease doctor for humans. He would explain to me that one may love creatures but to rise to the occasion to save their lives takes another set of skills and heroism.

2 HOW HAVE ROLE MODELS INFLUENCED YOUR CAREER?

Role models have 110% influenced my career. My father was a huge inspiration – he really encouraged me to go into medicine. I have also looked up to a number of women who decided to follow their dreams and pursue science as a career. One thing I noticed was that at all of the highest levels of science presentations that I would participate in since high school, I found that I was one of the only girls. Because I was the singular girl in many events, I found so much inspiration from female scientists like Jane Goodall, Rosalind Franklin, and Marie Curie. Seeing that they could do it made me believe that I could, too! It is so cool to see so many more women and girls going into the sciences, and I hope that I can be a role model for them, too.



3 WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

Every single time I see a hawk or eagle with a broken wing fly again, or an injured turtle with a cracked shell go back into the wild, or see endangered species that we are saving go up in number from our protective services, I feel happy. However, the times I feel most proud of this work is when I receive emails or letters from people around the world telling me how the work that my foundation did inspired them to do more good. The most beautiful thing to me is to inspire others to reach for their dreams and to spread kindness and positivity. We all have roles in this world to play, but if we aren't inspiring each person to reach their fullest potential by being the best person you can be, then you aren't living life to the fullest!

4 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

The best part of my work is making so many incredible friends: both fuzzy/feathery/scaly/slimy animal friends and not-so fuzzy human friends. It is the best feeling to go meet your patient and make that sick animal better, and then give the good news to the people who care about that animal whether they are local villagers, the owner, or the zookeepers. Every connection I make, both animal and human, is very special to me.

5 WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG GIRLS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A CAREER LIKE YOURS – HOW CAN THEY FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS?

First, never ever, ever give up on your dreams! Second, keep reading and learning about wildlife conservation and medicine. You'll find that there are so many ways to help animals - as you begin to learn more, you can find a path that really speaks to you! You can also gain experience (even as a kid!) by volunteering at your local animal shelter or zoo, or finding a conservation cause to support! Once you find a path that really makes you smile every single time you think of your dream, then hang onto your goal and never let it go. Keep dreaming your dream until it becomes your reality!

6 WHAT WOULD YOU TELL A 12 YEAR OLD GABBY?

I would tell her to keep it up and not to be scared! Sometimes life is difficult and it may seem impossible to reach a certain goal, but with really hard work it will happen! Just keep at it! Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it. The only person powerful enough to tell you whether or not you can do something is you!

7 WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CAREER THAT ALSO MAKES A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WORLD AROUND YOU?

Every single person has the potential to make the world a better place. Whether it's saying "thank you" to someone who held the door open or doing a fundraiser at school for the less fortunate (humans or animals), each act has an enormous positive effect! I'm extremely blessed that I can take care of endangered species. For example, I'm so proud of the work I've done with Asian elephants. It's been amazing to see an elephant I've helped rescue go back into the wild and then find out that the elephant I saved later had her own baby! That baby can now live and grow in the wild. Serving as nature's doctor is the best feeling ever!

On another level, it is such a blast working as a sustainable fashionista. By educating people about wearing and promoting ethical and green fashion, we have a positive impact on the ecosystems where wild animals live! Also, we inspire people to wear fashion that is healthy for their bodies, since they are made with more natural dyes and materials. Ethical fashion also creates sustainable jobs for the people who make these clothes. It's another positive way to support the environment and people.

With all that we do in life, we must try to spread positivity and goodness. Never do something that you know deep down inside is wrong. Stand up for what you believe in, and you will not only feel amazing about yourself but you will be successful in what you do.

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