

# Animal Wellness Month: Caring Smarter, Caring Better

and a Special Introduction to Temple Grandin

Christina Webb, DVM

# Caring Smarter, Caring Better

- October is designated **National Pet Wellness Month** in the U.S.
- Launched in 2004 by the AVMA with Fort Dodge Animal Health
- Goals:
  - Educate pet and livestock owners to keep animals healthy throughout the year
  - Catch problems early



# Why Prevention Matters

- Vaccinations and Parasite Control
- Healthy Nutrition
- Spaying and Neutering
- Life Stage Care
- Dental Care
- Avoiding Environmental Hazards

# Vaccinations and Parasite Control

- Safeguard against serious, often fatal diseases
- Core Vs. Non-Core Vaccinations
- Public Health Importance – Zoonotic Risks
- Cost of Skipping Vaccinations
- Year-round Concern of Parasites
- Tailored Plan for Each Individual



Photo: Chaneil Dechant

# Healthy Nutrition

- Balanced nutrition supports every body system
- Proper diet helps prevent disease
- Life stage and activity level nutritional needs
- Species-specific nutrition

# Healthy Nutrition

- Transitioning to a new diet
- Monitor BCS and weight management

Terrible cruise, rained the whole time.  
They did have a great buffet.  
I had two of everything



— SELECT A BODY CONDITION SCORE FOR YOUR PET —

①



VERY THIN

②



UNDERWEIGHT

③



IDEAL

④



OVERWEIGHT

⑤



OBESE

# Spaying and Neutering

- Prevents overpopulation
- Protects against diseases
- May improve behavior
- Decreases stray population
- Financial benefits





# Life Stage Care

- Wellness needs evolve with age
- Pediatric (birth to 12 months)
- Adult (1 year to 6-7 years)
- Senior (7 years+)
- Special Circumstances

# Life Stage Care

- Pediatric (birth to 12 months)
  - Rapid growth
  - Precise nutritional needs
  - Vaccination and parasite prevention schedules
  - Early training and socializing



# Life Stage Care

- Adult (1 year to 6-7 years)
  - Annual exams for early detection
  - Vaccination boosters and parasite control
  - Proper nutrition
  - Weight control
  - Dental care



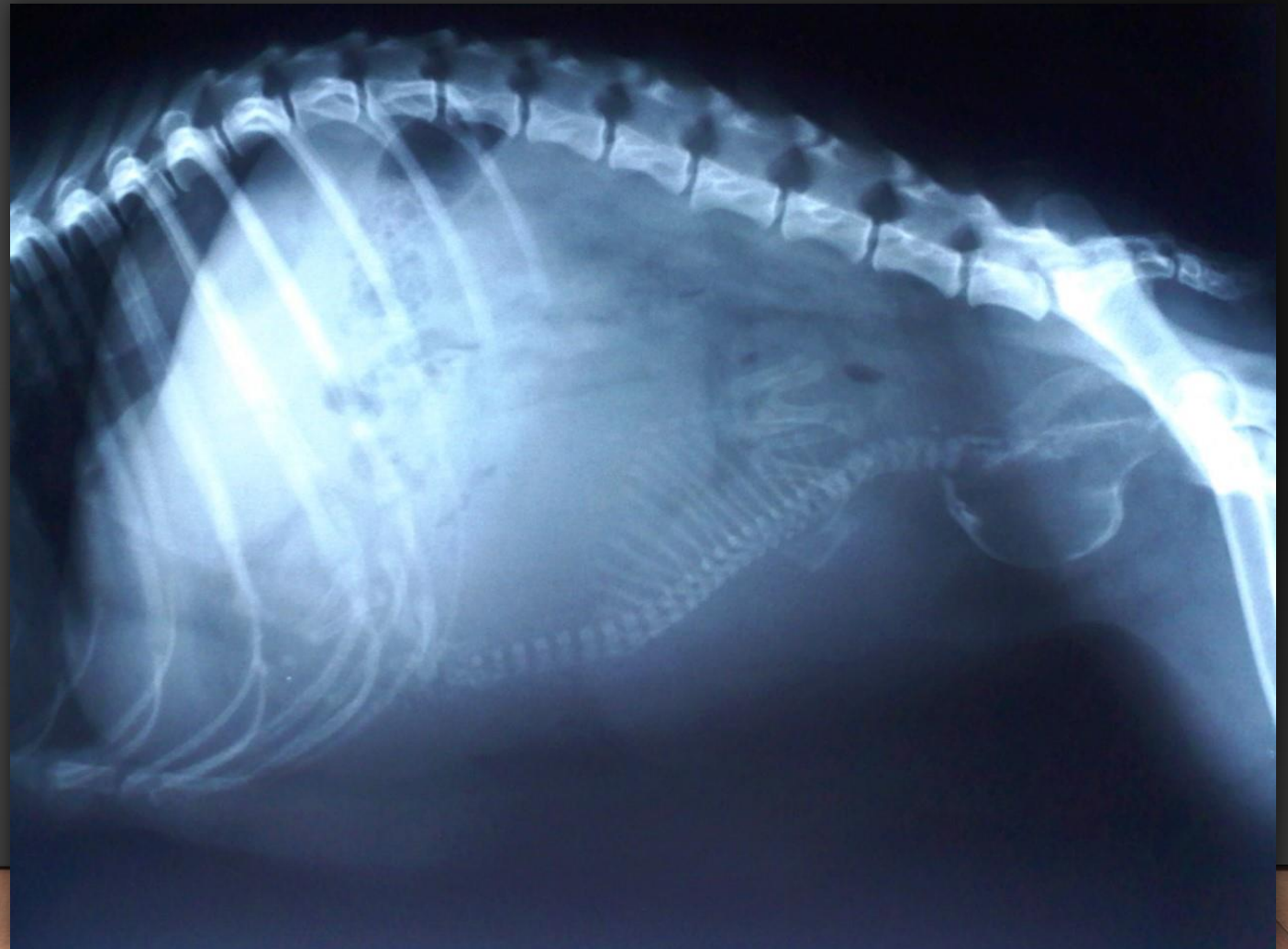
# Life Stage Care

- Senior (7 years+)
  - More frequent exams
  - Joint care
  - Dental care
  - Age related disease detection and monitoring



# Life Stage Care

- Special Circumstances
  - Pregnant or Lactating
  - Working
    - Service, Athletes, Detection
  - Exotic species





# Dental Care

- Dental disease is a common problem
- Source of bacteria
- Improve quality of life



# Environmental Hazards

- Toxic Plants
- Household Chemicals or Fumes
- Toxic Foods
- Seasonal Dangers

These lilies are  
**toxic**  
to cats



**Easter lily**



**Tiger lily**



**Asiatic hybrid lily**



**Day lily**

# Your Veterinary Team

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Technician or Technologist
- Veterinary Assistant
- Veterinary Support Staff





# Community chips in for 'Joey'

## able rat terrier vives an abuser

son Smith  
Chronicle

fect strangers have been donating their earned money to help mend an allegedly d rat terrier's broken front legs. e little dog gets his name from how he like a kangaroo when he walks on his hind said Christina Webb, a veterinarian at Ani-hospital of Clarksville. ey's left upper leg and right lower leg were en by his previous owner. He was brought Animal Control by a witness who will be fil-charges against the abuser. He's just the sweetest little thing," Webb "Even with two broken legs, he tries to give kisses and wags his tail and he's learning to k on his back legs." Webb said she wasn't sure Joey would be put keep or not because of his injuries, especially ause of how expensive it is to fix them. "Both legs are fairly expensive and Animal trol doesn't have the funding to do that," she d. "The director of Animal Control, Karen ephson, she came down and met him yester-y or Monday or Tuesday and decided she was ng to do everything she could to raise enough ney to fix him because he is really sweet."

SEE 'JOEY' PAGE C4



THE LEAF-CHRONICLE/ALLISON SMITH  
Dr. Christina Webb tends to Joey and the little terrier's broken front legs.

## 'Joe

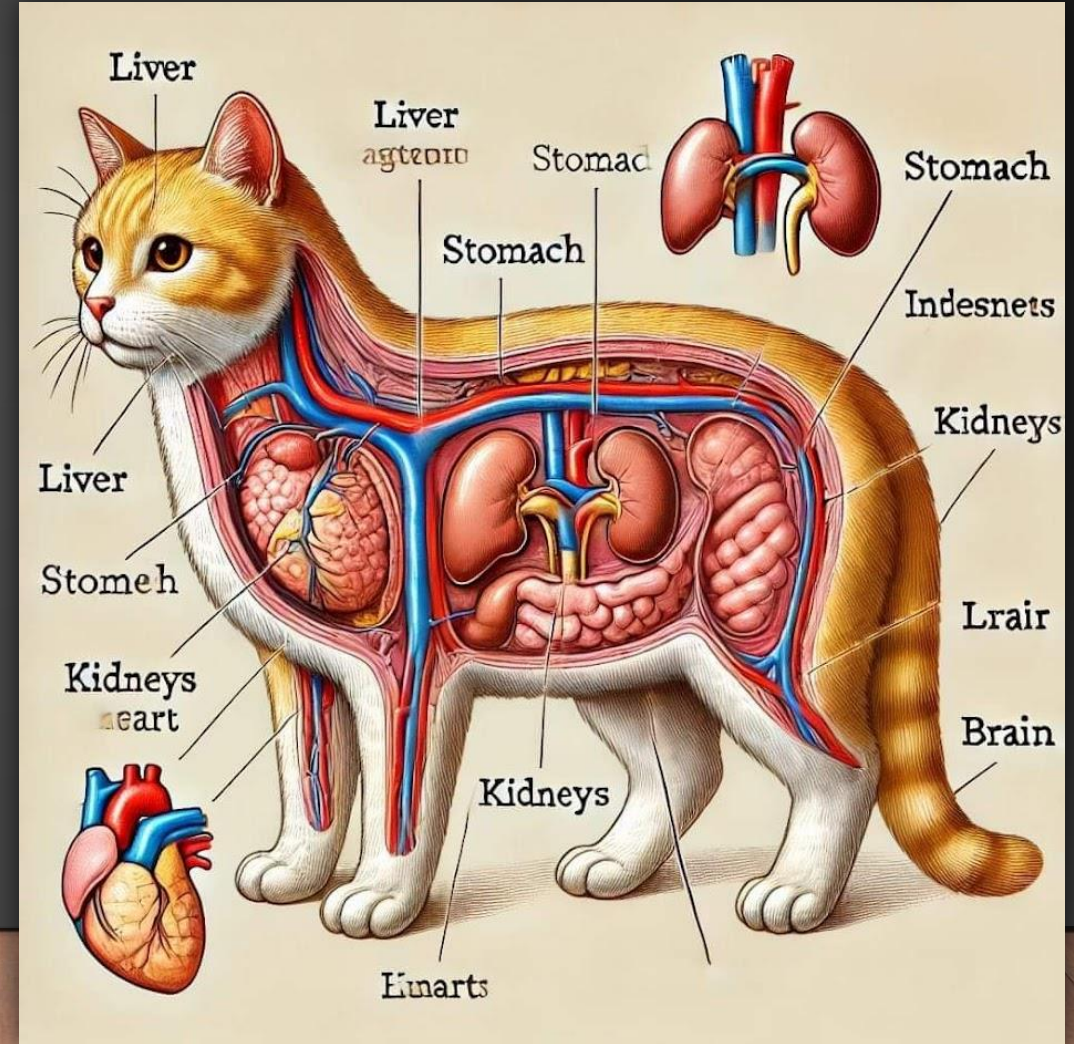
Continued

Webb's document and said h people hav "Yesterd was some what this w ry," he said let and gav know, we li economy th as a nation, ness in their From the to Wednesda raised. He sa one else asid Animal Hosp impressed th "Of all th place, people and be good p Webb said Joey's x-rays on-going. "There is a that you can healed," she s arily mean th but some sort this dog befor Joey went and wasn't ex recovered fro morning. Web plates in the do enough to hea walking around "It's hard to going to be sor ly, but he shou being those



# Trust Your Veterinary Team

- Don't depend on AI and Dr. Google!

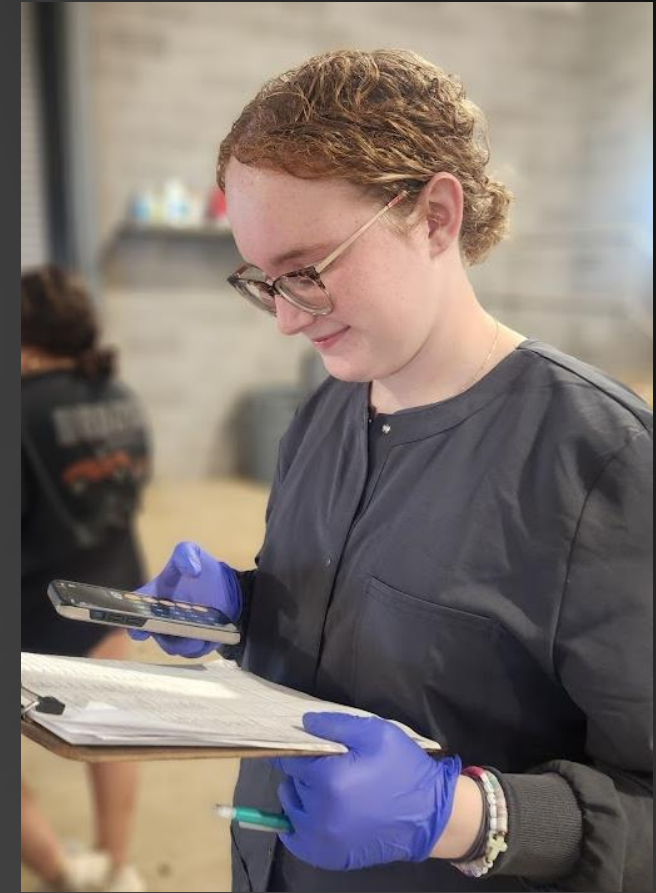


# APSU Veterinary Technology

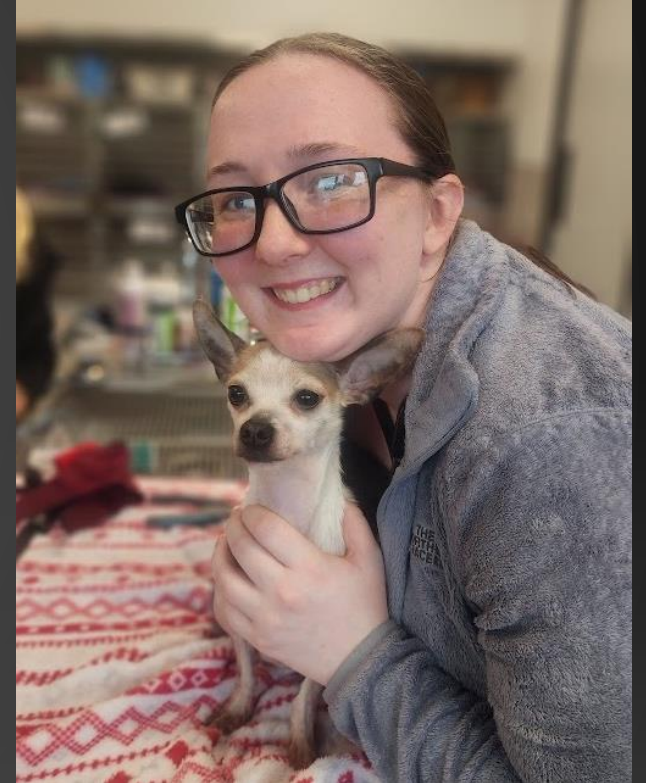
- Training future Veterinary Technologists
- Accredited by AVMA
- Many classes at Coleman Tractor APSU Farm Powered by Kubota
- Cattle and Goats
  - Spring KIDS!



# APSU Veterinary Technology



# APSU Veterinary Technology



# Montgomery County Animal Care and Control 437 Jordan Rd.



## Key Point

Regardless of the type of animal or their role,  
a wellness plan is the best way to ensure every animal  
—companion, working, or livestock—  
receives the care needed for a good quality of life

# Introducing Temple Grandin

- Global pioneer in Animal Science and advocate for autism awareness
- 2010 film “Temple Grandin.”
  - Multiple Emmys
- A new documentary
  - “An Open Door”



# Temple Grandin – Early Life

- Mary Temple Grandin, born in 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts
- Nonverbal until age 4.
- Fearful of hugs and flinched at being touched
- Sensitive to other sensory input like noise.



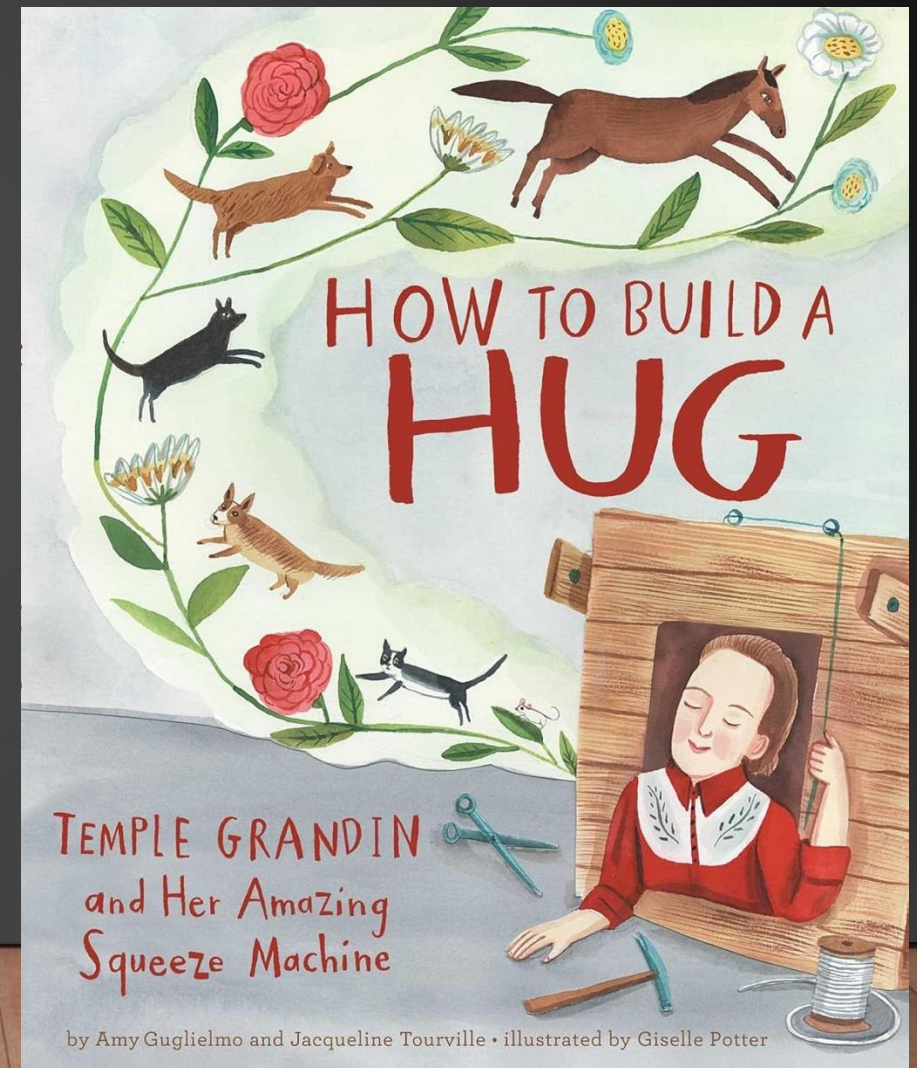
# Temple Grandin – Early Life

- Doctors recommended institutionalization
- Expelled from school during her early teens
- Enrolled in Hampshire Country School
  - a boarding school for students with “exceptional potential”
- William Carlock became a critical mentor.



# Temple Grandin – Early Life

- At age 15 - summer at her aunt's ranch
  - inspiring her interest in cattle behavior and humane handling.
- She built her first “hug box” (“squeeze machine”) in high school
  - A central instrument in her work in sensory regulation.





<https://www.bancroft.org/the-calming-effect-temple-grandin/>

# Temple Grandin - Works

- She has authored many books on livestock handling, animal behavior, autism, and thinking.

Emergence: Labeled Autistic

Thinking in Pictures: Other Reports from My Life with Autism

Developing Talents: Careers for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism

Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior

The Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships: Decoding Social Mysteries Through the Unique Perspectives of Autism

Livestock Handling and Transport

The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's

Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals

Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach

The Autistic Brain: Thinking Across the Spectrum

Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals, Second Edition

Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor

The Loving Push: How Parents and Professionals Can Help Spectrum Kids Become Successful Adults

Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions

Navigating Autism: 9 Mindsets for Helping Kids on the Spectrum

The Grandin Papers

# Temple Grandin - Current

- Professor of Animal Science CSU
- Global advocate for autism acceptance and humane animal handling.
- TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World (2010)
- May 2024 - joined the Fear Free organization
  - Director of Animal Wellbeing



# Temple Grandin – Lasting Impact



- Revolutionized animal welfare in agriculture
- Has helped transform how society views autism and neurodiversity
- Believes that different ways of thinking are strengths, not weaknesses

You get the opportunity to experience this amazing person!

# So, how Can You Celebrate Wellness Month?

- Plan a wellness visit with your veterinarian.
- Evaluate your pet's environment.
- Start an exercise plan or enrichment activity for your pet (and you).
- Donate to or Volunteer at local animal rescues and shelters.
- Join us on October 30<sup>th</sup> - Temple Grandin event!

## Temple Grandin

### Related Event Schedule

#### Oct. 17

"Temple Grandin" Movie Night with FSL  
4 p.m. | Clement Auditorium

#### Oct. 22

OSRI Lunch and Learn with Dr. Christy Webb  
12:15 p.m. | SSC E106A&B

#### Oct. 27

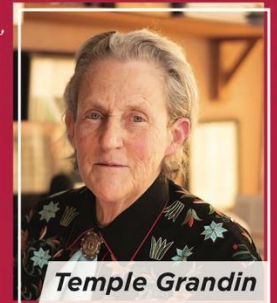
Book Panel Discussion on "Visual Thinking"  
12:15 p.m. | SSC E106B

#### Oct. 30

On-Campus Discussion with Dr. Grandin  
12:45 p.m. | Clement Auditorium

Dr. Grandin Book Signing  
4 p.m. | Music/Mass Comm Lobby

Community Discussion with Dr. Grandin  
6 p.m. | Mabry Concert Hall



Temple Grandin

**AP** Austin Peay  
State University  
CLARKSVILLE • TENNESSEE  
College of STEM

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[www.daysoftheyear.com/days/national-pet-wellness-month](http://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/national-pet-wellness-month)

[www.avma.org/javma-news/2009-09-15/national-pet-wellness-month-promotes-wellness-plans](http://www.avma.org/javma-news/2009-09-15/national-pet-wellness-month-promotes-wellness-plans)

<https://www.biography.com/activists/a77656334/temple-grandin>

<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/autismhistoryproject/people/temple-grandin-1947>

<https://childmind.org/blog/temple-grandin-on-autistic-kids-and-video-games>

Making the Transition from the World of School into the World of Work, by Temple Grandin, Ph.D. <https://iidc.indiana.edu/irca/articles/making-the-transition-from-the-world-of-school-into-the-world-of-work.html>

<https://www.ideastream.org/news/health-science/2016-01-25/helping-people-with-autism-move-into-the-workplace>

Progress and Challenges in Animal Handling and Slaughter in the U.S., by Temple Grandin

<https://www.grandin.com/references/progress.challenges.us.animal.handling.html>

<https://ianrnews.unl.edu/grandin-livestock-industry-has-improved-handling-needs-tell-its-story-better>

[Four actionable Fear Free tips from Temple Grandin, PhD, and Marty Becker, DVM | dvm360 - Veterinary News, Veterinarian Pet Care and Medicine Expertise](#)