An expert on animal behavior, Temple Grandin has designed humane handling systems for half the cattle-processing facilities in the US, and consults with the meat industry to develop animal welfare guidelines. As PETA wrote when awarding her a 2004 Proggy: “Dr. Grandin’s improvements to animal-handling systems found in slaughterhouses have decreased the amount of fear and pain that animals experience in their final hours, and she is widely considered the world’s leading expert on the welfare of cattle and pigs.” In 2010, TIME magazine listed her as one of its “100 Most Influential People” for 2014.

Grandin’s books about her interior life as an autistic person have increased the world’s understanding of the condition. She is revered by animal rights groups and members of autism community as a voice for those who are often challenged to make themselves heard.