

Who are the women involved in STEM?

“ **The most rewarding part of my job is**
Working with animals and being a voice
for the voiceless.

Professional

Top-level responsibilities

As a wildlife biologist, I research about big cat behaviours to find ways to improve animal welfare. This helps us understand our wild animals and make better conservation decisions to improve human–animal relationships.

Day-to-day work and skills

I spend a few months in zoos and rescue centres observing lions and collecting samples. Later, I assess these samples in the lab to measure their stress.

Personal

Current location and community

I was born in India but I came to Sydney to pursue a PhD. So I developed a network of friends in both India and Australia.

My interests and hobbies

I love spending time outdoors and observing animals. In addition, I like travelling, camping, snorkelling, painting and singing.

I am passionate about

Sharing my knowledge about wildlife and engaging with the community to encourage them to care about animals.

What I would say to 16-year-old me

Don't be afraid of taking risks and keep exploring the different options till you find what you love.



Janice Vaz

PhD Researcher

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I grew up in an animal-loving family and neighbourhood.

I studied a Bachelor of Science and later a Masters in Wildlife Biology. I had excellent teachers who inspired me!

I volunteered at a private veterinary clinic, animal shelters and zoos. This experience helped me design my own animal welfare study for my Master's project.

I worked as a junior researcher and later as a program officer at a local NGO, where I was involved in raising awareness about the environment among school students.

I came to Australia as a PhD student and hope that my PhD research will have some practical impact for animals in the future.