

THE FIRST "GIRAFFOLOGIST"

ANNE DAGG



Anne Dagg is noted as a pioneer in animal behavioral science and is the first Western person to study giraffe behavior in the wild.

As a young woman Anne was obsessed with giraffes, however, when she sought out research on them, there was little information on how they behaved. Information was largely anatomical or anecdotes recounted by hunters and explorers.

One such anecdote stood out to Anne; it stated that the giraffe, like the cow, had 25% of full intelligence. This seemed foolish to Anne and a few short years later she would embark to discover the truth about giraffe behavior and intelligence.

In 1956, before any other person had made such a trip, a 23 year-old Anne made the unprecedented solo journey to South Africa to study giraffes in the wild.

She carefully observed giraffes taking extremely detailed notes on their behaviors such as feeding, movement and social interaction. This method would lead future researchers to develop ethograms to study wild animal behavior.

Despite gender-based discrimination she published influential research and advocated for giraffe conservation her whole life. She earned the title of the first "Giraffologist" and demonstrated that caring and conserving our wild giraffes starts with understanding how they live and behave.



**LEARN MORE
ABOUT JUNIOR
GIRAFFE CLUB**

www.juniorgiraffeclub.org

