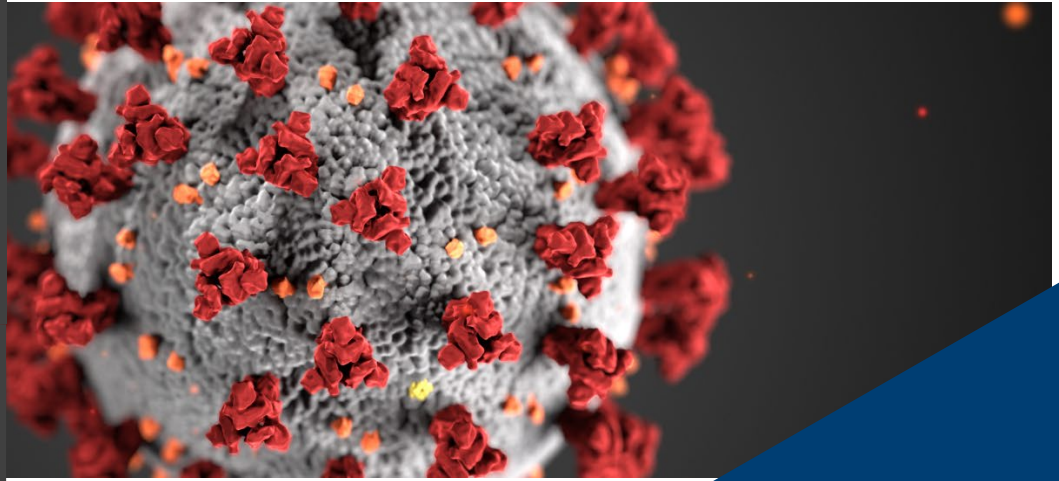


IN THE
TIME
OF
COVID-19



WELCOME

This is CHOIR's collective effort for expressing and documenting our extraordinary, lived experiences in the time of COVID-19.

#COVIDCREATIVITY
@VA_CHOIR on Twitter

Editorial Team: Keith McInnes, Rani Elwy, Gemmae Fix
Designer: Elizabeth Maguire



SEND YOUR
SUBMISSIONS TO:
RANI.ELWY@VA.GOV



Adventures in Mask Making!

Adobe Spark

JENNIFER CONTI



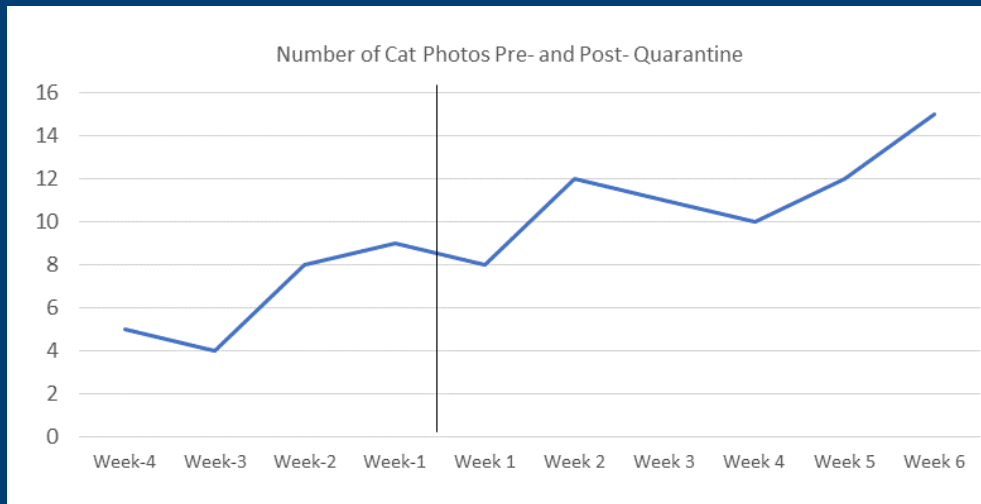
Bird: Do you live here?
Me: yes, I do!!
Bird: Since when? You are new here! I come here every day around 10:00 am and you are not usually the face I see!
Me: Yes, you are right, I started to work from home so you see me here! I'm usually at the office during the week at this time.
Bird: How do you like it so far?
Me: I surely miss the action in office. But what can we do.
Bird: C'mon cheer up. Be like me free and flying around, go get some fresh air.
Me: Thank you, I'll consider that, what is your name? I'm Haidar.
Bird: Call me birdie! Nice to see you around.
Me: Me too, enjoy our backyard. Oh, wait can I take a picture of you?
Bird: Yes, sure, go ahead.

HAIDAR AL-SARA



My new career – baking bread!

ANNA MARIA
VALENTINE



Journal: The New England Journal of COVID-19

Study Author: Vanessa Merker, PhD

Background: The PI's husband thinks quarantine has increased the number of cat photos she takes; the PI disagrees.

Methods: In this retrospective study, we counted the number of unique cat photos in the principal investigator's phone each week for the past 10 weeks.

Results: The average number of cat photos per week increased by 4.8 from the pre-quarantine (mean = 6.5) to post-quarantine period (mean = 11.3). However, visual inspection of our findings indicates a pre-existing trend towards increasing weekly cat photos (Figure 1).

Conclusions: While more cat photos are being taken in quarantine, our data do not support a direct causal effect of quarantine on cat photos. While the study was limited by a small sample size, it nevertheless is highly novel in its focus on the effects of coronavirus on artistic documentation and spousal disagreements.

Comments from reviewers 1 and 3 are welcome; Reviewer 2's comments will be forwarded directly to trash.

VANESSA MERKER

**AN ELEMENTARY
COVID-19 PANDEMIC
DICTIONARY & PHRASEBOOK**

**FIRST EDITION
APRIL 30, 2020**

Beneficiyumy (n) — A restaurant from which one orders take-out, specifically because it is a civic duty to patronize local establishments during the coronavirus crisis. (And not at all because one is feeling lazy, or one doesn't want to cook dinner.) See also *Fullanthropy*.

Book-shook (adj) — The shock that comes from finally seeing the months-old stack of to-be-read books next to your bed start to dwindle (a silver lining of the coropocalypse). "Yikes! I need an urgent fantasy recommendation!! My books-to-read are running out. I'm feeling a little *book-shook*."

Coronadapt (v) — To repurpose something (a space, a tool, a skill, etc.) to fill a new need that has arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I set up a card table in the bathtub to *coronadapt* the bathroom into a second home office. Because, I mean, who bathes now, anyway?"

Facisolator (n) — An item or activity that makes social isolation between friends and family members easier, or at least tolerable. “Without the new backyard fire pit as a *facisolator* it’d be way too cold to sit six feet apart for two solid hours on the back patio yakking with the inlaws.”

Fullanthropy (n) — An act of generosity, communitarianism, and gluttony whereby one promotes food service worker welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic (a.k.a the *coropocalypse*), specifically by ordering local takeout food. “Reuben’s *fullanthropy* seems to be pretty much keeping the El Acapulco Restaurant afloat these days.”

Improffice (n) — The myriad new places around one’s house or apartment that are adapted into workspace, usually in a desperate bid to get the heck out of your room/house. “I took the conference call sitting in my car with the door open, because I’d rather use that *improffice* than spend another minute working in bed.” See also: *pandofficepace*.

Isohot (adj) — Attractive ... that is, attractive in the eyes of someone who’s been self-quarantining for months and is in desperate need of companionship. “Yeeesh – I’ve been stuck in the house for 4 weeks, and I’m just wondering... is the mailman kinda sorta cute? Maybe? Or is he just *isohot*? Dunno – maybe with a mask on?” See also: *Mask-handsome*.

Mask-handsome (adj) — Comeliness that’s dependent on the inability to actually see a person’s full face when they’re encountered in public. “‘Is it just me, or is everyone on Tinder cuter nowadays?’ ‘I don’t think so, but a few of them are *mask-handsome*.’” See also: *Isohot*.

Skypierarchy (n) — The pecking order among group meeting software users that confers higher status and privilege to a few individual “meeting organizers” who can get nifty backgrounds and unlimited minutes over group chat or communication software. “I get kicked off my meetings after 40 minutes, but Ali is waaaay higher up in the *skypierarchy* ... so by all means, let her set it up.”

Telefauxpaference (n) — The many minutes of witty and insightful speech you have spoken into the phone or computer before you discover that the conference call dropped you an unknown time ago, and then you’ve been yammering on earnestly and somewhat self-importantly without noticing. Cringe-worthy. “Omg, has Allen really not realized that he’s been dropped from this call yet? It’s been 10 minutes and he’s still carrying on a *telefauxpaference* all by himself....”

Quarantime (n) — The collectively acknowledged alteration of one’s experience of time, brought about by the disruptive force of self-quarantine, social distancing measures, and failure to bathe regularly. “Will has no earthly idea what day it is. He’s clearly operating on *quarantime*.”

Quarennui (n) — The state of existential malaise brought on by being trapped in your house with nothing to do except think about the uncertainty of the future and the tenuousness of human social structures. “Oona was absently scrolling through the news on her iPhone, but her *quarennui* got so bad that she took a break to stare at the wall for 45 minutes.”

Quiambulate (v) — A special manner of walking, that’s necessary inside the home, when one’s spouse, roommate, partner, or other is leading a meeting over Skype (or a similar videoconferencing service). “I got used to having to *quiambulate* around the room, plastering myself against the wall in order not to become part of Laurel’s American Board of Pediatrics meeting.”

ALLEN GIFFORD

CRAFT COCKTAILS IN THE TIME OF CORONA



ANONYMOUS