

BETH SPENCER

*chronic kitty covid city*

During lockdown I post a photo of cats sitting on painted social distance rings outside a fruit stall. Each cat: paws neatly contained inside its own circle. Showing how it's done.

Alvin posts a link to research that says cats can give cats the virus, but they show no symptoms.

I say, "We need to be more like cats."

He says, "That has been my position for decades."

I ponder this, and suggest, "Except for the killing small animals and birds thing."

He replies, "Mine are entirely happy to lounge indoors and snack on processed foods, while being lovingly pampered for hours. Oh wait..."

We are in the middle of a pandemic, and it starts to make sense: the planet thrives when more of us are kept indoors.

(But how do we know it's the middle?)

I say, "Maybe after a certain age, or if we have health issues that render us vulnerable, we can volunteer to be like cats. The other, more hardy beings can go outside and do their thing and bring us back treats."

*I whisper to the wall:* I like this new zoom world. (I don't want it to end.)

I am suddenly "useful" just by staying home.

The Earth shifts on its axis; so much larger, so much smaller. (*Here, now.*)

I am a silk soft grey cat. I am enough.

(With thanks to Alvin Pang for the FB cat conversation, circa May 2020.)