

Survey looks at love in the time of COVID



AT HOME WITH
Marni Jameson

HOW'S YOUR love life during these stay-at-home times? Not to get personal, but it is Valentine's Day, and, besides, getting right in the middle of your home life is what I do.

I'm asking because, when the pandemic first hit, relationship experts warned that the pressures of constant togetherness combined with virus anxiety could push some couples to the breaking point. Even if it didn't, all that familiarity would most certainly destroy whatever mystery you thought was left between you two.

I can't believe she's wearing those same yoga pants again. If he wears that Boston Red Sox T-shirt one more day, I'm going to tear it to shreds. How can anyone get any work done with that TV on? His stuff is everywhere. Her phone calls never end. I wish he would shave. I wish she would shave. I cannot take this one more relentlessness day!

And Poof! There goes the magic. So I'm checking on you, and offering some heartening data. Homes.com, an online home-searching service, which surveys consumers every February on some aspect of my two favorite subjects love and home



Pandemic Pawsitives: One in three couples made home improvements as a result of the pandemic, and nearly one in 10 brought home a new, furry friend, according to a Homes.com survey. Photo courtesy of Pexels.

conducted a pandemic-themed survey this year. The company asked more than 1,000 "coupled" consumers of all ages whether spending more time at home together was helping or hurting their love lives, and this was my favorite part what changes they'd made in their homes to cope.

The results are in, and Cupid would be pleased: 63% said that spending more time at home, even under less than great circumstances, had improved their relationships. Only 10% said their relationship had suffered.

"We were pleasantly surprised," said Gillian Luce, Homes.com director of consum-

minimize conflicts and make their homes work better for them.

"The more we stay home, the more we see the areas of our homes that need improvement," said Luce, who lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, with her husband and 3-year-old son. After turning her guest room into a home office, she put in new windows, a fence, a larger pantry, and a better backyard drainage system, the latter so her family

could spend more time outside even after a heavy rain.

"The survey reinforced what we know about our desire to connect," Luce said. "We are such a social society. If something nice came from this pandemic, it's that we got back to basics, to having more meals together, to less hustle and bustle, and to spending more quality time with our loved ones."

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