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"A Spectral and Temporal Analysis of Cat Retching"

For our project, we would like to explore the phenomena of the acoustics of cat retching noises. This is relevant because many commentators [1][2] regard this as one of the most troubling of all sounds.

To do this, we intend to perform the following experiment: We intend to induce vomiting in a cat (note that we will file appropriate paperwork on using animal subjects) and record this, and then perform a detailed analysis of the spectral and temporal properties of the sound. As a control, we will also compare these sounds to typical human retching sounds.

Hypothesis: We expect that the sound will be confined within the 800 Hz – 3000 Hz range and may contain "feline formants"

This project will require the following equipment and supplies:

- One cat
- NasTee-Mix Cat Retch Inducer
- Audix TR-40 Condenser Microphone
- DAW software (Logic)
- Analysis Suite (SHAART)

[1] some guy in this here publication
[2] a different guy elsewhere.

Timeline:

February 20: Have completed a survey of background research on the internet
March 1: Purchase NasTee Mix, and arrange to borrow cat
March 14: Have all equipment and materials
March 20: Perform initial run-through of the experiment, just to see if it might work
March 30: Perform re-do of experiment, for reals this time
April 6: Re-perform the experiment because something was messed up last time
April 10: Start preparing the oral presentation and/or paper
April 17: Have the paper written… etc