

# Happy Holidays from the SoleChen Family



## *Travels without Our Cats*

February: GC Summit  
March: Cannon Beach  
April: Norwescon  
May-June: Europe  
August: Seattle  
September: PAX  
October: Shinteki  
Disneyland

## *Living by the River*

Plenty of  
Farmer's Markets:  
**Portland**  
**Vancouver**  
**Joe's Place**  
**The Barn**

New favorite  
restaurant chain:  
**McMenamins**  
# visited: **10**  
# remaining: **55**

## *Visit PDX*

Why don't you come up  
and see us sometime?  
We'd love to show you  
around Stumptown!

2009 Visitors:  
**Pauline**  
**Corby**  
**Kathy & Brian**  
**Jan & Yar**  
**Carol**  
**Karin**



<http://www.snout.org>



## **Juice!**

**Jasper** here! Did you even know there was such a thing as Metamucil? I sure didn't! But now I have to drink it every night. But it's not that bad! The humans give me treats right after, and my poop comes out much easier now! No more running to the litter box when I want to watch birds or squirrels or talk with our neighbor Fluffy. **Yay** for kitty Metamucil!



## **Dungeons, Dragons, and Drafts**

**DeeAnn** kept her cookbook idea on hold—creating 120 unique recipes takes a while!—and spent the year working on fiction. When not distracted by **Left 4 Dead**, **Plants vs. Zombies**, weekly **D&D** games, or *teh Internets*, DeeAnn continues writing her “million words of crap.” She and Curtis also joined a **critique group**. Deadlines are very helpful.



## **2 Much 4 Twitter**

**Curtis** gave a well-received talk on puzzle hunts at **Ignite Portland 7**, and he and DeeAnn ran the first Portland **DASH (Different Area—Same Hunt)**. Writing-wise, weekly flash fiction project **512 Words or Fewer** is in its second year, and **Strangetastic.com** published Curtis' short story “Restart” in July. He's also been contributing non-fiction articles to the **Wired How-To Wiki** since September—and getting paid for it! You can find links to all his online work at: <http://snout.org/stories>



**Bayla passed away on December 9, 2009. Included below is the unedited draft of her newsletter contribution.**

Bayla is pleased NOT to be a traveling cat any more. [3<sup>rd</sup> person too affected?] But the humans still travel, and I get lonely. I went on a hunger strike in October. Despite subsequent force-feedings of icky meat-pudding, some good things also happened: The humans spend more nights at home, I get to play with curly ribbons and eat anything I want, and I FINALLY have my own pillow on the bed. So, 2009? Not so bad. [too upbeat?]



Portland Japanese Garden, October, 2009