

# Animal Talk

Healthy advice for you and your pet from the experts at Ingersoll Animal Hospital



## New look for the neighborhood; new name for us!

Have you driven down Ingersoll Avenue lately? Its new pedestrian-friendly and aesthetically pleasing streetscape is taking shape. Thanks to the Ingersoll Business Association —of which our clinic is a member — street and sidewalk construction has been going on much of the summer. Yes, it's been a challenge for those of us navigating through, but we think you'll agree that the end result has been well worth the effort.

We're proud to be part of the restoration of Ingersoll Avenue. So proud, in fact, that we are changing the name of our clinic to reflect its nearly 30 year history in the unique Ingersoll neighborhood.

**Ingersoll Animal Hospital** – we think it has a nice ring to it! Soon you'll see a new sign on the front of our building,

new landscaping, and a fresh clean glow to everything around us.

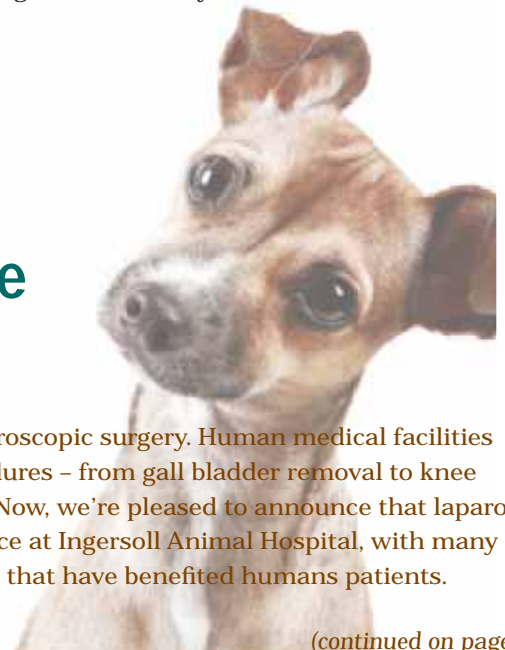
We shouldn't need to tell you that the heart of what you've know for years as Bryan Animal Hospital remains the same – quality care, exemplary customer service, and one of the most talented and best-trained veterinary staffs in the state.

### THIS ISSUE

- Introducing...Ingersoll Animal Hospital
- Laparoscopic surgery is now one of your pet health care options
- Meet Dr. Meythaler-Mullins
- Feline Facts
- What is a fecal exam?
- Check out our new website!

## Less-invasive **LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY** is now available for your pets

You're probably familiar with laparoscopic surgery. Human medical facilities have used it for a variety of procedures – from gall bladder removal to knee surgeries – for a number of years. Now, we're pleased to announce that laparoscopic surgery is a common practice at Ingersoll Animal Hospital, with many of the same advantages for your pets that have benefited humans patients.



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# Welcome Dr. Meythaler-Mullins

We're pleased to announce that Dr. Laurie Meythaler-Mullins joined the staff of Ingersoll Animal Hospital in late September.

Dr. Meythaler-Mullins was raised in Des Moines, where she attended Roosevelt High School. She went on to receive her B.S. from Iowa State University, her Master's from the

University of Florida, and her formal veterinary training at Iowa State University, graduating in 2008.

She and her husband Dan have two dogs – a Labrador Retriever, Emma, and a Rat Terrier, Shelby. They also have two cats, Allie and Abigail.

Dr. Meythaler-Mullins is an active runner and enjoys hiking with her



husband and her dogs. But she also enjoys curling up with a good book and her cats.

## Less-invasive laparoscopic surgery (cont.)

Rigid laparoscopic surgery is a minimally invasive technique that enables the surgeon to view the internal structures of the abdomen. A laparoscope, or tiny camera, is inserted through a small incision in the abdomen. The camera transmits the image it sees to a TV monitor, so the veterinary surgeon can make a more thorough examination of the surgery area. More small incisions are made so small surgical instruments can be inserted to assist in the procedure.

The most common application for laparoscopic surgery is biopsy. In recent years, laparoscopy has been adopted as a less traumatic and less painful alternative for traditional spays.

“We are equipped and experienced at performing abdominal surgery and biopsies of organs such as the liver and intestines, as well as spays and neuters,” explains Dr. Nancy T. Peterson, owner of Ingersoll Animal Hospital, who has performed hundreds of laparoscopic procedures.

### LAPAROSCOPIC SPAY AND NEUTER ARE EASIER FOR PETS AND THEIR OWNERS

Traditional spay procedures for female dogs and cats typically require a 3- to 6-inch abdominal incision, depending on the size of the animal.

Following removal of the

ovaries and uterus, the vessels these are sutured and then the abdominal wall is then sutured. These sutures typically require a return trip to the clinic in 10-14 days to be removed. All these elements of a traditional spay significantly contribute to post-operative pain.

On the other hand, minimally invasive laparoscopy can now be used to achieve the same outcome with reduced post-operative side effects. In most cases performing a laparoscopic spay only requires two to three 5 mm-10 mm incisions. The vessels and supporting structures to the ovary and uterus are “sutured” with a special cautery instrument. The reproductive system is then removed through the small incisions in the body wall. Most patients are able to go home the same day!

“I was thrilled with the results,” says Sharon Eklund, whose Cocker Spaniel Mocha was spayed laparoscopically. “She had a small incision and recovered quickly, and I was more comfortable knowing Mocha wasn’t undergoing major surgery.”

If you have questions on any minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure, please call our doctors and staff to learn more about this exciting new procedure available in our quest to provide the best possible quality care to all of our patients.



### ADVANTAGES OF LAPAROSCOPIC SPAYS OVER TRADITIONAL SURGERY:

Recent studies have shown that:

- Laparoscopic patients have less surgical stress and up to 65 percent less post-operative pain.
- The entire surgery is performed through a few tiny incisions rather than a larger abdominal opening. Smaller incisions are less painful and reduce recovery time.
- Laparoscopy allows for better visualization of abdominal organs.
- Controlled incisions eliminate pain and bruising caused by the tearing of tissue associated with traditional spays.

# FELINE FACTS

Cats can get tapeworms from eating mice. If your cat catches a mouse it is best to take the prize away from it.

A cat can be either right-pawed or left-pawed.

A cat has 230 bones in its body. A human only has 206 bones.

A cat will spend nearly 30 percent of its life grooming itself.

A cat will tremble or shiver when it is in extreme pain.

A cat's brain is more similar to a human's brain than that of a dog.

A cat's sense of taste is keener than a dog's sense of taste.



## What is a fecal examination?

Whether you're bringing your pet in for a wellness exam or because they are having a health problem, one of the main tests we usually perform is a fecal examination. Ever wondered why?

Because a fecal examination — the microscopic evaluation of feces — is indicated for pets who have diarrhea, are straining, have a lack of appetite or are vomiting. Fecal examinations are recommended on all animals as part of a regular wellness exam. And fecal examinations are always part an initial exam on puppies and kittens.

### WHAT DOES A FECAL EXAMINATION REVEAL OR DEMONSTRATE?

Fecal exams tell us a lot about the health of your pet. Fecal examinations are primarily performed to detect microscopic gastrointestinal parasites, such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, Giardia, coccidia and tapeworms. Some abnormal parasites known as spirochetes or flagellates can also be detected.

A positive test result indicates gastrointestinal parasitic disease. Negative results from one fecal sample may be misleading. Some parasites do not shed eggs consistently, so some samples may be negative even though the animal actually has a parasitic infection. Repeated fecal examinations may be necessary to detect some elusive parasites.

### HOW IS A FECAL EXAMINATION DONE?

To perform a fecal examination, you need to obtain a fecal sample before your veterinary visit or we can obtain one during the exam. However, the easiest way to do this is for you to pick up a sample of feces after your pet has eliminated. Fresh samples will give the most information. Simply use a plastic baggie, turn it inside out over your hand (like a glove), pick up a small sample, turn it inside out over the sample and zip it shut. Easy!

The fecal examination generally takes about 15 to 20 minutes and is performed in our office. In special instances, we may submit the fecal sample to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory. In these situations, tests results may take 1 to 2 days to obtain.

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• Read more at the Companion Animal Parasite Council's website •  
• [www.petsandparasites.org](http://www.petsandparasites.org) •  
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### IS A FECAL EXAMINATION PAINFUL OR IS SEDATION NEEDED?

No, a fecal examination is not painful. If a fecal loop or digital exam is used to obtain the sample, a mild, brief amount of discomfort may be involved. But sedation or anesthesia is not needed for a fecal examination.

### HOW DOES MY PET BECOME INFECTED WITH INTESTINAL PARASITES?

There are many ways by which your pet can become infected:

- Drinking contaminated water
- Coming into contact with other infected animals
- Coming into contact with infected feces or stools
- Getting bitten by fleas
- Nursing from an infected mother

### WHAT IS A ZOO NOTIC DISEASE?

#### CAN I GET INTESTINAL PARASITES FROM MY PET?

Zoonoses, or zoonotic diseases, are those diseases that can be transmitted directly or indirectly from animals to humans. For example, some worms can be transmitted in the environment. Under some conditions intestinal parasites can be transmitted to humans. Especially at risk are children, pregnant women, and immune-compromised individuals such as people with AIDS. Parasitic larva can migrate through the human body and lodge in the eye, brain or other areas, which can cause blindness or other severe health problems. The danger is real — discuss any risks to you with us or your physician.

### HOW DO I KEEP MY PET FROM GETTING INTESTINAL PARASITES?

Bowel movements are the source of most intestinal parasites. To avoid parasites, keep your pet away from areas where other animals have relieved themselves. Apartment complexes and dog parks are high risk areas for this. Dispose of your own dogs bowel movement as quickly as possible. In addition:

- Keep your pet's environment free from fleas to decrease exposure to tapeworms.
- A fecal check (a microscopic examination of your pet's feces) is an important part of your pet's routine wellness examinations and is good preventative medicine.
- Keeping our dogs on year-round heartworm preventative will also decrease their risk to some of the most common intestinal parasites.

# Visit [www.ingersollanimal.com](http://www.ingersollanimal.com)

## More than just the address has changed!

- New look
- Easier to navigate
- Fun articles
- Important information
- PDF forms you can download, fill out prior to your visit, and print (won't that be easier than juggling a leash and trying to fill them out at the counter?!)
- A look behind the exam room door
- Info about the professional staff that serves you and your pet



### Ingersoll Animal Hospital

3009 Ingersoll Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50312

515-274-3555

[www.ingersollanimal.com](http://www.ingersollanimal.com)

Monday – Friday: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - Noon

Emergencies: 515-280-3051



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Des Moines, IA 50312

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