

# Council hears request from animal shelter

**Penny L. Pool**  
*Staff Writer*

Roanoke City Council discussed increasing its funding of the Randolph County Animal Shelter at Monday night's meeting but delayed action until the annual budget is prepared.

Animal shelter president Chuck Smith gave an update and said the shelter has one of the highest ratings in compliance, health of animals, cleanliness and record keeping from both state and federal inspection boards.

"We believe we have one of the best shelters in the state of Alabama. Our adoption average is almost 60-plus animals each month. And we have had up to 88 adoptions in one month," he said.

They have found homes for more than 2,235 animals, and he expects those numbers to continue to rise.

Shelter personnel work well with Randolph County and all municipalities, especially the Roanoke Police

Department. Roanoke's animals exceed the number from other communities. In 2013 they took in 190 animals and already this year they have received 183 from Roanoke, about three times as many as from any other jurisdiction. They have never denied accepting an animal from Roanoke, Smith said.

The RCAS board has 12 members and one of them, Ginnie Moore, attended with him.

He said the board, volunteers and a small paid staff are a great group of people who do a great job. Volunteers go and pick up donated pet food and do things like clean the cat room every week. Someone even sponsors a cat or dog to help with the adoptions to good families.

Paid staff members are Amy Adamson, office manager, Elizabeth Stanford, kennel manager, Bradley Kilgore, technician, and Amelia Harrington, technician.

Councilman Smokey

Cole had requested the workshop meeting to review increasing the city's donation. Smith gently reminded the council that state law requires the city's financial support of a shelter.

They have to pay for incidentals such as medication and needs such as new dog houses, which even with a discount average about \$54 each.

Wedowee contributes \$4,000 annually; the county commission contributes \$900 a month; Woodland contributes \$2,000 and Roanoke gave \$6,000 this year. The fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

Mayor Mike Fisher asked if he was not requesting a specific amount and Smith said whatever they can do. He appreciates what they contribute.

Fisher said he would like to contribute \$10,000. Smith said that would really make a difference. Shelter staff have cut back everything they could.