

# Animal shelter improvements evidence of book sale success

The Randolph County Animal Shelter spring book sale is coming up Saturday, April 14 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You can find a variety of books of every genre, including current best sellers, for a minimal price. As usual it will be at Chris Mitchum's warehouse across from Cedarwood Cemetery.

Anyone who has not visited the animal shelter on Animal Shelter Road in Wedowee lately should visit to see all the changes to the facility.

It pays to see what the book sale is creating for the dogs and cats. At the back a storage building is under construction and will be completed shortly. Board president Chuck Smith said a \$10,000 grant is paying for that. A generous anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to complete it.

"It was like somebody up there was looking out for us," he said. "This year has just been a blessing. I'm very, very, pleased that the city of Roanoke recognized we really need their support and what the shelter is doing and what the community is putting into it," he said, referring to the additional \$500 Roanoke donated to the shelter.

Husband and wife team Rickie Pool and Annie Pool show some of the dogs in Jake's Hangout, a new unfinished area where puppies are isolated when they just come in. He is the kennel manager and his wife is the technician.

Every pen includes a cute puppy, including mixed basset hound/collie sisters. After a stay of 14 days when they get their first round of shots they are ready to move in with the others at the Puppy Palace for adoption.

The dogs start barking early, wanting to move to the outside holding pens where they stay from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are 12 brightly painted kennels and across the way another area is being prepared with fenced-in areas.

Rickie said they hope to get that completed this summer with concrete flooring for easy cleanup.

"We have so many puppies this year. I have got five in my basement," Smith said. The mother appears to be a terrier mix, smart as a whip, he said.

There are a lot of changes such as not letting people handle the puppies because they are so susceptible to disease, such as the Parvo virus.



Rickie Pool (above), kennel manager, shows all the new things built on the Randolph County Animal Shelter compound in Wedowee.

He and another board member Dugald McMillan visited the Birmingham Humane Society looking for some ideas and they saw where two smaller dogs are put in the same pen at night for companionship and comfort. Doing that would increase space, he said.

They average 30 dogs but right now have 47, he said. They have one of the best adoption rates in the Southeast using web sites like Pet Finder, Facebook, or [RandolphCountyAnimalShelter.org](http://RandolphCountyAnimalShelter.org).

"Last month I think we had 33 adoptions. In this economy when you put that many into homes that is wonderful," Smith said.



At left, Rickie and his wife, Annie Pool, show off some pretty sisters awaiting adoption. They are in the isolation unit awaiting a move in with the other puppies. While the brown and white one begs for attention her sister has become more reserved as the days pass.