

Move Complete; New Humane Society Opens

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Tuesday was a spectacular day for the animals and staff of the Watauga Humane Society. We had more than a dozen volunteers transported over 30 dogs and at least 40 cats to their new "temporary" home which opened Friday, September 30, 2011. The new facility, located at 312 Paws Way off old U.S. 421

east of Boone, features state-of-the-art kennels; outside areas for play and behavioral training; a community room that can be used for rentals, behavioral training, children's programs, meetings and conferences; a gift shop; a medical and surgical unit; quarantine areas; and administration office space and storage. We all thought there would be some anxiety among the animals with the move but we were pleasantly surprised when the cats settled right in to their new "kitty condos" and the dogs seemed to enjoy their new spacious runs! There was honestly no anxiety at all among the animals which made the staff's lives much easier. Lynn Northrop, shelter manager for the past 11 years, estimates that the new shelter can hold 80 dogs and 100 cats. Bill Jolly, chair of the society's Building Committee, said construction of the new shelter amounted to about \$2 million. Enterline & Russell was the contractor. Another big change is that Animal Care and Control will now be located at the new shelter. The Humane Society raised funding through a capital campaign to help pay off a \$1.3 million loan for the shelter, but more donations are needed to retire the debt. Northrop said "we still need to raise a lot of funds. It will be an ongoing campaign to raise the funds to cover our operating expenses. We will look to the community to help us with that."

For more information on the Watauga Humane Society and how you can help, please visit our website at www.wataugahumanesociety.org, call us at 828-264-7865 or stop by our new shelter. We would love to show you around!