

New shelter nearing completion

By Krista Tincher

Of the Tobacco Valley News

The Friends of the Shelter will achieve a goal 15 years in the making in the coming weeks: A new building for the Eureka Animal Shelter.

The shelter is scheduled to move to its new location the first weekend in

October, according to Sue Fanning of the Friends of the Shelter.

And what an improvement it will be.

The new shelter stands, square and simple, north of Eureka on Hwy. 93 on an acre of land donated to the non-profit organization around five years ago by Keith and Dona Taylor.

The 2,300 square-foot building will

house 16 dog kennels in its main kennel area, with optional access to two outdoor runs. Each individual kennel is split into two areas – the outer of which the shelter director will have the option of opening garage-style doors to let in fresh air for the dogs. Open a gate, and the dogs can wander into an outer pen to play together.

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KRISTA TINCHER/Tobacco Valley News

DUANE DIERENFIELD of New Creation, Inc., preps the floor of the new Eureka Animal Shelter north of Eureka last week. The Friends of the Shelter plans to move the shelter to its new location during the first weekend in October.

Shelter

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The building also houses a central office and entrance area, an isolation room, and a cat room.

The cat room will contain a number of stainless steel cat cages as well as a "community cat condo" which cats will be able to climb on in the outer chamber, said Fanning.

Friends of the Shelter hopes eventually to be able to build an outdoor run for the cats as well, said Fanning.

Currently, Friends of the Shelter also lacks funds for new kennels for the isolation room, she said, and will be using temporary kennels for that room.

Outside, the group is hoping to obtain permission from neighboring landowners to create a walking path up into the drumlins beneath the mountains, said Fanning. People will hopefully be able to drop by and walk



KRISTA TINCHER/Tobacco Valley News

THE NEW EUREKA ANIMAL SHELTER stands nearly complete north of Eureka last week. Outdoor runs were scheduled to be installed this week.

a dog just as they have been at the shelter's current location near the Eureka Riverwalk.

"We have lost the (old) location, but we have gained some good things out here," said Fanning.

Last week, flooring was going down in the shelter. Fencing for runs was slated to be installed this week.

Friends of the Shelter was able to complete the \$193,000 building with a

\$120,000 mortgage, which it hopes to pay off within five years. Local contractor Bob Helms facilitated the construction of the building.

The rest of the funds were gleaned through fund-raisers and community donations – many of them quite substantial.

"As always, we have (a long list) of volunteers to thank," said Fanning.