

Lack of Funding May Force Humane Society Closure

North Carolina shelter could shut its doors for good at the end of June.

The Avery County Humane Society in Newland, NC, may be forced to close at the end of June because of a lack of funding. The shelter, which already stopped accepting new animals June 8, doesn't have the money to operate past the end of the month, according to organizers. Shelter workers and volunteers said they've repeatedly requested that the county's Board of Commissioners provide them with more funding. A fourth of the shelter's \$200,000 annual budget comes from the board. Stray animals are already short on housing in Avery County; there's no animal control office, only the Humane Society shelter. Workers are now trying to adopt out the remaining 30 dogs and 30 cats. They're also urging concerned residents to contact the County Commissioners and ask them to give the shelter more money. For more information, call the Avery County Humane Society at (828) 733-6312 or visit <http://www.averyhumane.org>. Posted: June 19, 2006, 5:00 a.m. EST