



Carteret County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Vet Tech charged with Embezzlement of Animal Medications

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Carteret County Sheriffs Deputies arrested Jennifer Leigh Barnes, 39, of 506 Pollock Street, Beaufort, NC on March 11, 2013. Ms. Barnes has been charged with 2 counts of Embezzlement of Controlled Substance by Employee and 2 counts of Trafficking, Opium or Heroin.

Ms. Barnes was employed as a veterinary technician by a grant program funded through the Brandt Foundation and was responsible for the inventory control of the medications. CCSO Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion Detective, Tony Cummings, received information about a mobile veterinary services unit, Spay to Save, missing an undetermined amount of hydromorphone vials used in the treatment of animals.

Sheriff's Detective Tony Cummings contacted the State Bureau of Investigation Diversion Environmental Crimes Unit (SBI-DECU) Special Agent Cecil Cherry to assist in the investigation and concluded that Ms. Barnes was responsible for the thefts.

Ms. Barnes was released on an \$25,000.00 bond and has already had her first court appearance.

