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A man who tried to hide dead pigs has been sentenced.

Christopher Holt, 71, of Natures Farm, Ellington was sentenced last week (Wednesday) at Peterborough Crown Court. He was found guilty of four offences under regulations regarding the disposal of dead animals.

On Wednesday 23 October, he was sentenced to eight weeks imprisonment for each offence, suspended for 18 months.

Holt failed in his duty to dispose of dead animals without undue delay. Instead he attempted to conceal dead pigs from Trading Standards officers under a heap of wood, boxes and bags.

He was issued a legal notice but when officers returned they found nothing had been done.

Holt did not follow any advice previously given to him.

On sentencing Judge Enright concluded 'this is a very serious offence of which the spread of disease is the nub of it and it is so serious it is worthy of a custodial sentence.'

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Head of Trading Standards Peter Gell said: "Despite repeated warnings Mr Holt left us no choice but to put this matter before the court.

"We're glad the court recognised the seriousness of these offences because there is a risk to the public and other animals through transmission of disease if carcasses are not disposed of properly. Keeping livestock comes with responsibilities and should not be taken lightly, it is vital that strict disease control measures are enforced and adhered to."

If anyone has concerns regarding the welfare of farm animals, they should contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.



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