# Oxford woman denies serious animal welfare offences amid rising public concern



Susan Soul, a 73-year-old woman from Stoke Row, has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of animal welfare misconduct at Oxford Crown Court. The charges, which span a period from October 31, 2021, to October 31, 2024, revolve around alleged mistreatment of animals on her property at Busgrove Wood, located near Wallingford. Among the animals she kept are pigs and a boar.

The specific allegations against Soul are serious, including three counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and two counts of failing to ensure proper welfare for animals under her care. Additionally, she faces multiple counts of failing to comply with animal by-product regulations, contravening a local authority order, and neglecting to maintain adequate veterinary records for the animals. These charges were filed following a series of troubling incidents, including the alleged neglect of a boar suffering from an ingrown tusk and a failure to safeguard a newborn piglet, which was subsequently killed by an adult pig.

Details from the indictment uncover further distressing aspects; it is claimed that Soul allowed high mortality rates among her piglets due to "inappropriate breeding procedures." Furthermore, investigators allege that she failed to properly dispose of numerous dead pigs, which were reportedly stored in nine blue barrels, posing significant health risks.

Such cases of animal neglect highlight a growing concern regarding animal welfare in farming across the UK. Recent incidents have prompted public outcry and, in several cases, legal action. Notably, in a similar vein, Susan Smith, a farmer from South Gloucestershire, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for severe animal cruelty after RSPCA inspectors discovered hundreds of dead and dying animals on her farm.

Soul's case is not isolated; there have been various notable examples of negligence in animal husbandry. The public consistently demands accountability from those responsible for animal welfare, as evidenced by the incarceration of Angela Russell and her son for neglecting numerous animals at their rescue centre.

The legal ramifications of Soul’s situation are significant, as she opted for a trial by jury, a decision that reflects the gravity of the allegations against her. She will be represented by defence counsel Oliver Willmott, while prosecution will be led by Richard Heller. The trial is scheduled to commence on May 4, 2027, with significant media attention expected due to the serious nature of the charges and ongoing public discourse surrounding animal welfare.

As this case unfolds, it stands as a reminder of the vital role that effective regulation and enforcement play in protecting the welfare of animals. The outcome may not only affect Soul but could also set a precedent in how similar cases are addressed in the future, emphasising society's growing expectation for humane treatment of animals.

### Reference Map

1. Lead article
2. Related summary from Henley Standard
3. Similar case example from BBC
4. Related misconduct case from Oxford Mail
5. Additional neglect case from BBC

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25184427.oxford-woman-charged-animal-offences-face-trial/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/henley-on-thames/196172/woman-denies-animal-offences.html> - Susan Soul, 72, of Busgrove Lane, Stoke Row, has opted for a trial by jury after being charged with 11 offences between October 31, 2021, and October 31, 2024. The charges include causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal, failing to comply with animal by-product requirements, and failing to ensure animal welfare. The trial is scheduled to take place at Oxford Crown Court on Thursday, May 8. ([henleystandard.co.uk](https://www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/henley-on-thames/196172/woman-denies-animal-offences.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-50295893> - Susan Smith, a farmer from Ingst Manor Farm in South Gloucestershire, was sentenced to 18 months in jail after being convicted of animal cruelty charges. RSPCA inspectors found hundreds of dead and dying animals at her farm, including sheep, horses, cattle, and pigs. The judge also disqualified Smith from keeping animals for life. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-50295893?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24344939.oxfordshire-vet-delayed-surgery-contributing-dogs-death/> - Dr. Susan Mulvey, of CornYard Veterinary Centre in Witney, was found guilty of disgraceful misconduct after delaying vital surgery that led to a dog's death. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons determined that her conduct fell 'far below' the expected standard of a 'reasonably competent' vet. ([oxfordmail.co.uk](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24344939.oxfordshire-vet-delayed-surgery-contributing-dogs-death/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-23849910> - Angela Russell, 44, and her son Robert, 25, were jailed for neglecting animals at their family-run rescue centre, Crunchy's Animal Rescue, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. RSPCA officers described the conditions as 'some of the worst they had ever seen,' leading to the seizure of 80 animals. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-23849910?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://scienceblogs.com/scientificactivist/2006/06/14/from-the-archives-caught-in-th-1> - An article discussing the experiences of an animal rights activist in Oxford, detailing their involvement in protests and the challenges faced, including legal proceedings and imprisonment. The piece provides insight into the activism and the personal impact of animal rights campaigns in Oxford. ([scienceblogs.com](https://scienceblogs.com/scientificactivist/2006/06/14/from-the-archives-caught-in-th-1?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-45281575> - Susan Smith, convicted of animal cruelty and neglect, was ordered to remove all of her animals from Ingst Manor Farm. The court found her unsuitable to keep animals, and the judge stated it would be 'inappropriate' to sentence her in light of the appeal. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-45281575?utm_source=openai))