



Body Condition Score System

1 Extremely Thin The horse is extremely emaciated. The backbone (spinous processes), ribs, tailhead, point of hip (tuber coxae, haunch), and seat bone (tuber ischii, point of buttock) all project prominently. The bony structures of the withers, shoulders, and neck are easily noticeable. No fatty tissue can be felt anywhere.

2 Very Thin The horse is emaciated. The back bones are prominent. The ribs, tailhead, and pelvic bones stand out. Withers, shoulders, and neck structures are faintly seen.

3 Thin The back bones stand out with fat covering them to their midpoint. Very slight fat can be felt over the ribs but they are easily seen. The tailhead is prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be seen. Tuber coxae (point of hip) are visible but rounded. The seat bone (tuber ischii) cannot be seen. The withers, shoulders, and neck are accentuated.

4 Moderately Thin The backbones are easily seen and the outline of the ribs can be seen. Tailhead prominence depends on conformation but fat can be felt around it. Point of hip cannot be seen and the withers, shoulders, and neck do not look obviously thin.

5 Moderate The back is level. Ribs cannot be seen but can be easily felt. Fat around the tail head is slightly spongy. The withers look rounded and the shoulders and neck blend smoothly into the body.

6 Moderate to Fleshy There may be a slight crease down the back. Fat over ribs and tailhead is soft. There are small fat deposits along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders, and along the sides of the neck.

7 Fleshy There may be a crease down the back. Individual ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between the ribs. Fat around the tailhead is soft. There is noticeable fat along the withers, the neck, and behind the shoulders.

8 Fat There is a crease down the back. Spaces between the ribs are filled with fat and individual ribs are difficult to feel. The sides of the withers are filled with fat and fat around the tailhead is very soft. The area behind the shoulders is filled in flush and some fat is deposited along the inner thighs. Old fat deposits may turn hard.

9 Extremely Fat Crease down the back is very obvious. Fat appears in patches over the ribs and there is bulging fat around the tailhead, withers, shoulders, and neck. Fat along the inner thighs may rub together and the flanks are filled in flush.

