

Body Condition Tool

Too Thin

1 Severely Underweight

- Ribs, backbone and hip bones all highly visible, even from a distance¹; with complete absence of any fat
- Obvious muscle loss particularly around shoulders and thighs
- Severely exaggerated waistline²
- Tummy non-existent³



2 Thin

- Ribs, backbone and hip bones easily seen¹; with no overlying fat layer
- Some mild muscle loss particularly noticeable around shoulders and thighs
- Exaggerated waistline²
- Severe tummy tuck³



3 Slightly Underweight

- Ribs can be easily felt and may be seen, with backbone and hip bones just visible¹ and no overlying fat layer
- Obvious waistline²
- Marked tummy tuck³

Ideal

- ## 4
- Ribs can be easily felt and may/may not be seen¹ with a minimal layer of overlying fat
 - A clear waistline can easily be seen²
 - Noticeable tummy tuck³



- ## 5
- Ribs can be felt and may/may not be seen¹ with a small layer of overlying fat
 - A clear waistline can be seen²
 - Visible tummy tuck³

Too Heavy

- ## 6 Slightly Overweight
- Ribs can be felt, but generally can't be seen¹ with an obvious layer of overlying fat
 - Waistline is visible, but not clear²
 - Tummy tucks slightly upwards towards back legs³



- ## 7 Markedly Overweight
- Ribs are hard to feel and see¹ under a thickened layer of overlying fat
 - Distinct pads of fat can be felt along the lower back and at the base of the tail
 - Waistline absent or difficult to see²
 - Tummy may slope slightly upwards towards back legs or remain horizontal³



- ## 8 Obese
- Ribs are very difficult to feel under a very thick layer of overlying fat
 - Chunky pads of fat can be felt along the back and at the base of the tail
 - Waistline is absent²
 - Tummy bulges outwards and may sag downwards³

- ## 9 Clinically Obese
- Ribs are impossible to feel with a marked layer of very thick overlying fat
 - Very chunky pads of fat can be felt along the back and at the base of the tail, as well as around the neck and legs
 - Waistline is absent²
 - Tummy distinctly bulges outwards and sags noticeably downwards³

¹ In short-haired dogs. ² When viewed from above. ³ When viewed from the side. The Body Condition System was developed at the Nestlé Purina Petcare Centre and has been validated in the following publications Kealy RD.2002. JAVMA vol.220, p.1315-1320. Laflamme DP. Canine Practise Jul/Aug 1997; 22:10-15. MawbyD, Bartages JW, Moyers T et al. Compendium 2001; 23(9A):70.