



Body Condition Scoring

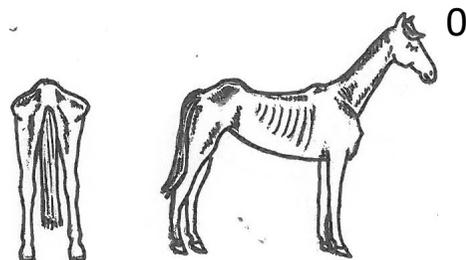
Handy Guide



How to use our handy Body Condition Score Guide

- Divide the horse into three areas (**the pelvis, the back and ribs, and the neck**) and score these areas separately.
- Start with the pelvis, and give a score from 0-5 as described.
- Adjust the score by half a point if there is a difference of one point or more to the back of the neck.

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0 VERY POOR

PELVIS—Very sunken rump. Angular pelvis, skin tight over quarters. Deep cavity underneath tail.

BACK and RIBS—Skin tight over ribs, ribs very visible. Backbone very prominent and sharp.

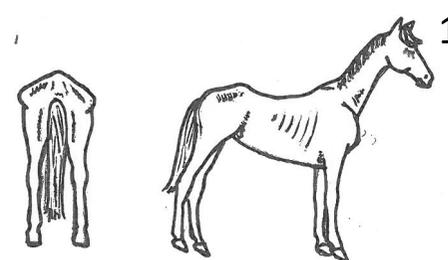
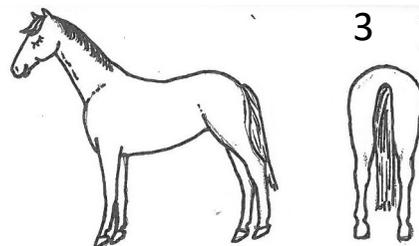
NECK—Marked ewe neck, narrow and slack at base.

3 GOOD

PELVIS—Rounded, covered by fat. Pelvis easily felt. No gutter along back.

BACK and RIBS—Just covered, with ribs easily felt. Backbone can be felt but is well covered.

NECK—Firm. No crest (except for stallions).



1 POOR

PELVIS—Supple skin but rump sunken, Pelvis and croup prominent. Cavity underneath tail.

BACK and RIBS—Ribs easily visible. Backbone prominent, sunken skin on either side of backbone.

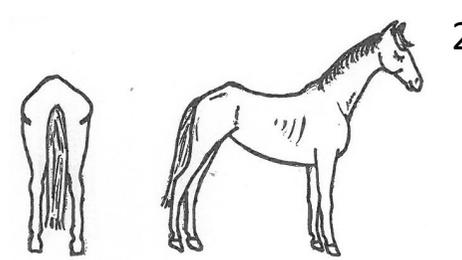
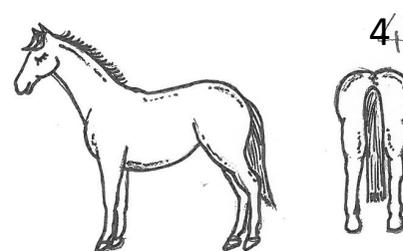
NECK—Ewe neck, slack at base.

4 FAT

PELVIS—Well covered by fat, need to apply firm pressure to be able to feel. Gutter to root of tail.

BACK and RIBS—Need to apply pressure to be able to feel ribs, well covered.

NECK—Wide and firm, slight crest.



2 MODERATE

PELVIS—Rump is flat on either side of backbone. Croup well defined, has some fat. Slight cavity under tail.

BACK and RIBS—Ribs are just visible. Backbone can be felt but is covered.

NECK—Narrow but firm.

5 VERY FAT

PELVIS—Pelvis cannot be felt (buried). Skin distended, deep gutter to root of tail.

BACK and RIBS—Ribs cannot be felt (buried). Back broad and flat with deep gutter.

NECK—Very wide and firm, folds of fat, marked crest.

