

Table 1: Description of the areas to be scored when body condition scoring horses.

Adapted from Henneke et al. (1983) similar to a previous factsheet from Utah State University by Hoopes et al. (2019).

Body area scores	1 Poor	2 Very thin	3 Thin	4 Moderately thin	5 Moderate	6 Moderately fleshy	7 Fleshy	8 Fat	9 Extremely fat
Neck Score:_____	Animal extremely emaciated. Skeletal structure is very apparent. No fatty tissue felt.	Animal emaciated. Slight fat covering over the spine.	Neck accentuated.	Neck not obviously thin.	Neck blends smoothly into the body.	Fat begins to be deposited along the sides.	Fat deposited along the neck.	Noticeable thickening of the neck.	Bulging fat.
Along the withers Score:_____	Bone structure is clearly apparent with spinous processes prominent. No fatty tissue palpable.	Bone structure is still discernible.	Withers accentuated.	Withers not obviously thin.	Withers rounded over spinous processes.	Fat begins to be deposited along the sides.	Fat deposited along the neck.	Area along the withers filled with fat.	Bulging fat.
Behind the shoulder Score:_____	Bone structure is clearly apparent. No fatty tissue palpable.	Bone structure is still discernible.	Shoulder accentuated.	Shoulder not obviously thin.	Shoulder blends smoothly into the body.	Fat begins to be deposited behind the shoulder.	Fat deposited behind the shoulder.	Area behind the shoulder filled in flush with body.	Bulging fat.
Ribs Score:_____	Ribs prominently visible with indentations between them.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs very easily discernible.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.	Faint outline discernible.	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt.	Fat over ribs feels spongy.	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat.	Difficult to feel ribs.	Patchy fat appearing over ribs.
Loin Score:_____	Spinous processes project prominently. No fatty tissue palpable.	Slight fat covering over the base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded.	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt.	Negative crease (A-frame) along back.	Back level.	May have a slight positive crease (gutter) down back.	May have positive crease (gutter) down back.	Positive crease (gutter) down back.	Obvious positive crease (gutter) down back. Flank filled with fat.
Tailhead Score:_____	Tuber coxae (hooks) and ischii (pins) of the pelvis project prominently.	Tailhead prominent. Tuber coxae (hooks) and ischii (pins) are prominent.	Tailhead prominent. Tuber coxae (hooks) appear rounded but are still easily discernible. Tuber ischii (pins) not distinguishable.	Prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt. Tuber coxae (hooks) not discernible.	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy.	Fat around tailhead feels soft.	Fat around tailhead is soft.	Tailhead fat is very soft. Fat deposited along inner thighs.	Bulging fat around tailhead. Fat along inner thighs may rub together.

_____ Overall average of body area scores = total of all scores divided by 6

For more information and evaluation instructions:

