

**Table 2: Muscle scoring for horses in work. Most of the statements within a box should be true (checked/ticked) to receive that score. Half scores are allowed.**

Adapted from Walker et al. (2016).

Score	1 (least muscled)	2	3	4	5 (most muscled)
<b>Neck</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Side area concave <input type="checkbox"/> Top of neck narrow and easily moveable <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical vertebrae 1–5 visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Shelf where shoulder meets neck <input type="checkbox"/> Scapula relatively prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Side area flat or concave <input type="checkbox"/> Top of the neck flat but not convex and easily moveable <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical vertebrae 1–5 easily palpable but not visible <input type="checkbox"/> Shelf where shoulder meets neck <input type="checkbox"/> Scapula visible but not prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Top of neck convex through part of length only, with concave areas <input type="checkbox"/> Top of neck easily moveable <input type="checkbox"/> Side of neck flat <input type="checkbox"/> Ventral aspect of the neck concave or flat <input type="checkbox"/> Indentation cranial to withers <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical vertebrae 1–5 palpable under moderate pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have slight tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Top and side of neck convex through parts of length but not entire length <input type="checkbox"/> Indentation cranial to withers <input type="checkbox"/> Ventral aspect of neck concave or flat <input type="checkbox"/> No vertebrae visible <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical vertebrae 1–3 vertebrae palpable under strong pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Top and side of neck convex through entire length <input type="checkbox"/> Ventral aspect of neck concave or flat <input type="checkbox"/> No indentation cranial to withers <input type="checkbox"/> No vertebrae visible <input type="checkbox"/> Cervical vertebrae 1–3 vertebrae palpable under strong pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation
<b>Thoracic</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes (including left and right sides) visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation with ribs visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles markedly concave from side and caudal view, the shape appearing more like a shelf than a smooth curve <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Dipped back posture	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes (including left and right sides) visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation with ribs not easily visible although palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from caudal and side view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Mild dipped back posture	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes visible <input type="checkbox"/> Dorsal tips and left and right sides of spinous processes palpable in dorsal 1–2 cm <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation with ribs not visible or easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles slightly concave or nearly flat from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles slightly concave or nearly flat from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have slight tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes visible at the tip only (except withers) <input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes only palpable left and right side in dorsal <1 cm <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation with ribs not visible or palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles flat from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles flat from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Only dorsal tip of spinous processes palpable except at withers <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation with ribs not visible or palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles level with spinous processes from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation
<b>Lumbosacral</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes (including left and right sides) visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Transverse processes visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from side and caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae prominent and visible <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae easily palpable	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes (including left and right sides) visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Transverse processes not easily visible although palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from side and caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae prominent and visible <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae easily palpable	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes visible <input type="checkbox"/> Dorsal tips and left and right sides of the spinous processes palpable in dorsal 1– 2 cm <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles slightly concave or flat from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have slight tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae easily palpable but not prominent	<input type="checkbox"/> Spinous processes visible at the tip only, and only palpable left and right side in dorsal <1 cm <input type="checkbox"/> Transverse processes not palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles ?at from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae palpable but seen only as a smooth convex region <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Only dorsal tip of spinous processes palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Transverse processes not palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae hidden under muscles and only seen as smooth convex region

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For more information and evaluation instructions:



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Continued from previous page.

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Score	1 (least muscled)	2	3	4	5 (most muscled)
<b>Pelvic</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles deeply concave with a shelf-like appearance from caudal and side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber sacrale prominent—easily visible and lateral aspect visible and palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae prominent, visible, and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrum and/or caudal vertebrae definable or prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave in a smooth curve from caudal and side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber sacrale prominent—easily visible and lateral aspect palpable but not visible <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae prominent, visible, and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrum and/or caudal vertebrae not definable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles flat from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles flat from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber sacrale prominent—easily visible and dorsal part of lateral aspect palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae visible and palpable but not prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrum and/or caudal vertebrae not definable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles slightly toned on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from caudal view and/or side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tips of tuber sacrale palpable only <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber coxae palpable but seen only as a smooth convex region <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrum and/or caudal vertebrae not definable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from side view <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber sacrale largely hidden under muscles and only seen as smooth convex region <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrum and/or caudal vertebrae not definable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation
<b>Hindlimb</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from side view (near the buttocks) <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from caudal view (in the thigh area) <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of femur prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles concave from side view and/or muscles concave from caudal view. If only one is concave the other is flat. <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii visible and easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of femur visible but not prominent <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle tension on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii cannot be visualized easily <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii easily palpable <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles flat from caudal and side view although isolated muscles may be concave <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of femur palpable with moderate pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of femur not easily visible <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have slight tone on palpation	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from side view or muscles convex from caudal view but not both, with other being flat <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles moderately toned on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii not obviously visible <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii palpable with moderate pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of femur palpable with strong pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscles convex from side view and muscles convex from caudal view <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii not visible <input type="checkbox"/> Tuber ischii require strong pressure to palpate <input type="checkbox"/> Greater trochanter of the femur requires strong pressure to palpate
<b>Abdominal</b>  Score:_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sagging appearance to abdomen <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen appears to hang below level of the sternum <input type="checkbox"/> Dipped back <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have weak tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen easily moves on pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen lacks shape but does not have a marked sagging appearance <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen hangs slightly lower than sternum <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate extension of the back <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have slight tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen easily moves under pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen is more cylindrical than sagging in shape <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen appears to be at a similar level to the sternum <input type="checkbox"/> Slight extension of the back <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Slight resistance to movement on pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen is cylindrical in shape with minimal dropping of the ventral aspect <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen held approximately at level of sternum <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have moderate to good tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Flat back <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate resistance to movement on pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen is cylindrical in shape <input type="checkbox"/> Abdomen tends to be held above sternal level <input type="checkbox"/> Muscles have good tone on palpation <input type="checkbox"/> Flat back or slight flexion <input type="checkbox"/> Marked resistance to movement or pressure

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