

Dog Body Condition Scoring System

Determine if your dog is overweight by reading the clues of his body structure.

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1. Very Thin

Ribs: Easily felt with no fat cover.

Tail Base: Bones are raised with no tissue between the skin and bone.

Side View: Severe abdominal tuck.

Overhead View: Accentuated hourglass shape.

2. Underweight

Ribs: Easily felt with little fat cover.

Tail Base: Bones are raised with minimal tissue between the skin and bone.

Side View: Abdominal tuck.

Overhead View: Marked hour-glass shape.

3. Ideal

Ribs: Easily felt with slight fat cover.

Tail Base: Smooth contour, but bones can be felt under a thin layer of fat.

Side View: Abdominal tuck

Overhead View: Well-proportioned lumbar waist.

4. Overweight

Ribs: Difficult to feel with moderate fat cover.

Tail Base: Some thickening, but bones can be felt under a moderate layer of fat.

Side View; No abdominal tuck or waist.

Overhead View: Back is slightly broadened.

5. Obese

Ribs: Difficult to feel under thick fat cover.

Tail Base: Thickened and difficult to feel under a prominent layer of fat.

Side View: Fat hangs from the abdominal and there is no waist.

Overhead View: Markedly broadened.