

Equine Conditioning Scoring System



It's easy and can be done in 4 easy steps.

Contents

- 1.) Description of the Body Conditioning Chart
- 2.) 4 easy steps of determining your horses body condition rank.
- 3.) 43 points of the horse.
 - Sorted by Name.
 - Sorted by Number.
- 4.) A complete visual image of the 43 points of the horse.
- 5.) A complete visual image of the 6 body conditioning points.

Body Conditioning Chart adopted from Henke etal.

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Equine Body Condition Scoring



Body Conditioning Scoring was developed in order to rate your horses Body Condition. This scoring system is based on your observable appraisal of 6 areas of your horses body. The complete scoring rankings range from 1-9 with a list below:

- #1 Poor
- #2 Very Thin
- #3 Thin
- #4 Moderately Thin
- #5 Moderate
- #6 Moderately Fleshy
- #7 Fleshy
- #8 Fat
- #9 Extremely Fat

In our opinion, since people usually describe their horses as Poor, Thin, Moderate or Fat, we broke the 9 scores into 4 categories with 5 more descriptive and specific, minor categories. Our Body Conditioning Scoring allows for you to quickly see where your horse falls in the 4 major categories. If you need to be more specific you can track it to each specific category.

#1 **Poor** -----→ RANK 1

- 1.) Poor

#2 **Thin** -----→ RANK (2-4)

- 2.) Very Thin
- 3.) Thin
- 4.) Moderately Thin

#3 **Moderate** -----→ RANK (5-7)

Ideal Conditioning Score is between (5-7)

- 5.) Moderately Thin
- 6.) Moderate

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7.) Moderately Fleshy

#4 **Fat** -----> RANK (8-9)

8.) Fat

9.) Extremely Fat

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STEP #1

It's easier if you print out the entire report. That way you can bring it with you as you do a self-appraisal of your horse. Familiarize yourself with your horse and the specific areas circled in the report.

STEP #2

You have 4 series of questions below that will quickly and easily help you make a decision on which of the 4 categories your horse falls into. Please read and check off the one that most fits your horse.

Each series references the Body Conditioning Scoring Horse Image included with this document that's at the last page of this report.

You will be looking at the bone structure of your horse. Essentially the easier to see and the more details seen in the bone structure, the thinner the horse. The less detailed and the less pronounced the bone structure the fatter the horse. A good analogy is the Obese person, vs. the athlete, vs. the concentration camp refugee.

Series #1

Q1.) Area 1+2- Are the shoulders neck and withers easily noticeable?

Can you see each area in a very profound way?

Q2.) Area 3- Is the spine projecting prominently?

Can you see the details of the spine?

Can you see detailed vertebrae?

Q3.) Area 4- Is the tail head and the hip bones projecting prominently?

Q4.) Area 6- Are the ribs really pronounced?

Can you see the individual ribs protruding?

YES ✕ Go to Step 3 #1

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Series #2

- Q1.) Area 1+2- Do the neck, shoulder and withers area look uniform?
Do they blend together?
- Q2.) Area 3- Is the spine easy to see?
But not the real details... (Detailed vertebrae)?
Is there a fat build up about ½ way up the spine?
Can you see the spine but it does not project prominently from the body?
- Q3.) Area 4+5- Is the tail head prominently displayed?
But you can't see the details of the vertebrae?
Are the hip bones hard to distinguish?
Do they blend with the flank?
- Q4.) Area 6+7- Are the ribs discernable?
Can you see the ribs but there not prominently displayed?

YES √ Go to Step 3 #2

Series #3

- Q1.) Area 1- Do the neck and shoulder blend smoothly?
You can't see each separately, is it a smooth transition from one body part to the other.
- Q2.) Area 2- Are the withers rounded over the spine?
Are they thick and protruding?
- Q3.) Area 3- Is the back flat?
Is there no ridge or crevice by the spine?
- Q4.) Area 4- Is there a little fat around the tail head?
Does it feel spongy?

YES √ Go to Step 3 #3

Series #4

- Q1.) Area 1- Is there noticeable thickening around the neck?
- Q2.) Area 2- Is this area around the withers, filled with fat?
Is it large and protruding like a bump?
- Q3.) Area 3- Is there a crease running down the back?
- Q4.) Area 4- Is the fat around the tail head very soft?
- Q5.) Area 5+6- Is it difficult to feel the ribs?
Is the area #6 filled with fat?
Is there fat along their inner thigh?)

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This is your obese horse.

YES x Go to Step 3 #4

STEP #3

3-#1. If you answered **YES to # 1** your horse is considered **POOR**.

*Please call your Vet IMMEDIATELY.

3-#2. If you answered **YES to # 2** your horse is considered **THIN**.

*A good diet and exercise plan normally can get your horse to the ideal Moderate category range. You can continue the questions below to target your horses' specific "Thin category".

The 3 specific categories are **Very Thin, Thin or Moderately Thin.**

Go to Step 4 #1

Please continue below for a complete appraisal.

3-#3. If you answered **YES to # 3** your horse is considered **MODERATE**.

*Congratulations. Your horse condition is considered ideal. You can continue the questions below to target your horses' specific "Moderate category".

The 3 specific categories are **Moderate, Moderately Fleshy or Fleshy.**

Go to Step 4 #1

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Please continue below for a complete appraisal. A good nutritional analysis is a great way to fine tune your horses body condition or to prepare your horse for additional exercise or work.

3-#4. If you answered **YES to # 4** your horse is considered **FAT**.

*A good diet and exercise plan normally can get your horse to the ideal Moderate category range. You can continue the questions below to target your horses' specific "Fat category". The 2 specific categories are Fat and Extremely Fat. Please continue below for a complete appraisal

Go to Step 4 #3

STEP #4

4-#1 How THIN is my horse?

The 3 specific categories are Very Thin, Thin or Moderately Thin.

A.) **Very thin.**

Your horse isn't quite a concentration camp refugee.

Area 1+2+6- Withers, shoulder and neck structure are slightly discernable. (You can see them but they are starting to blend.)

Area 3+4+5- There is a slight covering of fat over the spine (It actually feels rounded.) The tailhead, ribs and hip bones are still prominent but you can't see the vertebrae details.

B.) **Thin**

Area 1+2+6- The withers, neck and shoulders are uniform (thin) and all appear the same.

Area 3- There is a fat build up ½ way up the spine. The spine doesn't appear completely rounded.

Area 4- The hip bones are rounded and filled in but you can still see them.

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Area 5- You can still see the ribs but you can feel a slight layer of fat covering them.

C.) **Moderately Thin**

Area 1+2+6- Withers, shoulder and neck are not obviously thin. They look somewhat filled in.

Area 3- Slight ridge along the back.

Area 4- You can feel some fat around the tailhead. (Use the fat status rather than the prominence of the tailhead as a guide since some horses, naturally have a more prominent tailhead. Feeling the fat is the key.)

Area 5- Only a faint outline of the ribs are able to be seen.

4-#2 How MODERATE is my horse?

The 3 specific categories are Moderate, Moderately Fleishy or Fleishy.

A.) **Moderate**

Area 1+6- Shoulders and neck blend smoothly into the body.

Area 2- The withers appear rounded over the spine.

Area 3- The back is flat there is no crease or ridges.

Area 4- The fat around the tailhead is beginning to feel spongy.

Area 5- You cant see the ribs but you can still feel them.

B.) **Moderately Fleishy**

Area 1+2+6- You can start to see the fat being deposited along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders and along the side of the neck.

Area 3- You may see a slight crease along the back.

Area 4+5- The fat around the tail head is now soft and the fat around the ribs is spongy.

C.) **Fleishy**

Area 1+2+6- Fat is beginning to get deposited along the neck and withers.

Area 3- May have definitive crease down back.

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Area 4+5- Fat around tailhead soft and noticeable filling in of fat around the ribs.

4-#3 How FAT is my horse?

The 2 specific categories are Fat and Extremely Fat

A.) Fat

Area 1+2 Area along withers filled with fat with a noticeable thickening of the neck.

Area 3- A crease down the back.

Area 4+5+6- The fat around the tailhead is really soft, it's difficult to feel the ribs and behind the shoulder is filled with fat.

B.) Extremely Fat

Area 1+2+4+6- Bulging fat along the neck withers, tailhead and shoulders.

Area 5- Patchy fat over ribs.

Area 3- Obvious crease down back.



A **horse's** body **condition influences** a number of things.

From their **attitude and demeanor** to the two most prominent influences which are their **reproduction and exercise** effects.

A horse's condition can be controlled by diet and exercise.

Using www.equus-rx.com *Fitness and Conditioning Software* virtually **assures your control over your horses body condition.**

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- 43 Points of the Horse on Page 9 -

- 43 Points of the Horse -

<u>Sorted by #</u>		<u>Sorted by name</u>	
1.) Nostril		Back	33
2.) Muzzle		Breast	9
3.) Chin groove		Canon bone	13
4.) Cheek		Cheek	4
5.) Throat		Chestnut	19
6.) Wind-pipe		Chin groove	3
7.) Jugular grove		Coronet	17
8.) Point of shoulder		Crest	37
9.) Breast		Croup	31
10.) Elbow		Dock	30
11.) Forearm		Ears	40
12.) Knee		Elbow	10
13.) Canon bone		Ergot	23
14.) Tendons		Eye	*
15.) Fetlock joint		Fetlock joint	15
16.) Pastern		Flank	29
17.) Coronet		Forearm	11
18.) Wall of hoof		Forelock	41
19.) Chestnut		Gaskin	26
20.) heath		Heel	22
21.) Stifle		Hock	24
22.) Heel		Jugular grove	7
23.) Ergot			

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<u>Sorted by #</u>	24.) Hock	<u>Sorted by name</u>	Knee	12
	25.) Point of hock		Loins	32
	26.) Gaskin		Mane	36
	27.) Tail		Muzzle	2
	28.) Thigh		Neck	38
	29.) Flank		Nostril	1
	30.) Dock		Pastern	16
	31.) Croup		Point of hock	25
	32.) Loins		Point of shoulder	8
	33.) Back		Poll	39
	34.) Withers		Projecting Cheek bone	4
	35.) Shoulder		Sheath	20
	36.) Mane		Shoulder	35
	37.) Crest		Stifle	21
	38.) Neck		Tail	27
	39.) Poll		Tendons	14
	40.) Ears		Thigh	28
	41.) Forelock		Throat	5
			Wall of hoof	18
			Wind-pipe	6
			Withers	34

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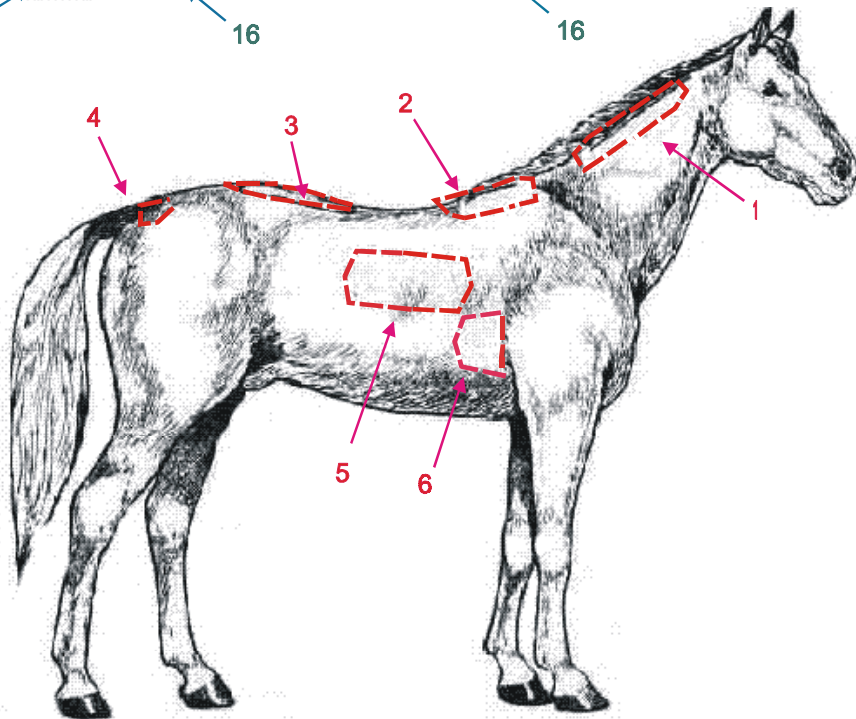
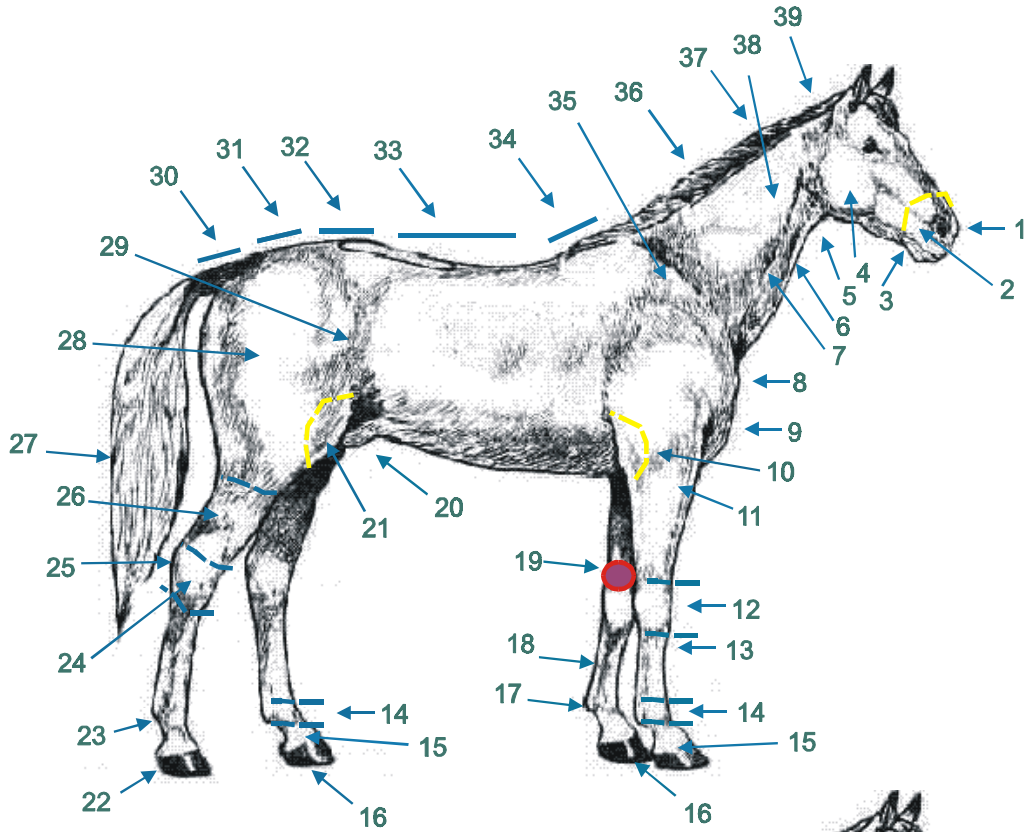
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Points of the Horse



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Adopted from Hennecke et al.