

Body Condition Score- Equine



1. Emaciated

The spinous processes of the vertebrae, ribs, tailhead, and hook and pin bones are all prominently seen. The bones of the withers, shoulders, and neck are also easily identified, and no fat is palpable anywhere. Considered unfit to travel.

2. Very Thin

The vertebral spinous processes are prominently seen, as well as the ribs, tailhead, and hook and pin bones. The bone structures of the withers, neck and shoulders are still fairly noticeable.



3. Thin

The spinous processes are still outstanding; however, their lower halves are covered by fat. The individual vertebrae are not distinguishable. A very thin layer of fat can be felt over the ribs. The tailhead is prominent; however, the pin bones are not visible. Hook bones are visible but rounded. The withers, shoulders, and neck are all accentuated.

4. Moderately Thin

The horse's spinous processes create a negative crease along the back. The rib outlines are faintly seen. Hook bones are not visible, and the withers, neck, and shoulders are not obviously thin. Fat can be felt around the tailhead.



5. Moderate

The spine of the horse is level with surrounding muscle height. Ribs are not visible but are easily felt. The fat palpable around the tailhead feels slightly spongy. The withers appear rounded with the neck and shoulder blending smoothly into the body.

6. Moderately Fleshy

There is fat around the tailhead that feels soft, whereas fat over the ribs feels spongy. There are small fat deposits along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders, and along the sides of the neck. There might be a slight crease down the back of the horse.



7. Fleshy

Fat is noticeable within the withers, neck, and behind the shoulders. The horse's ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between individual ribs. Fat around the tailhead is soft. There may also be a crease down the back of the horse.

8. Fat

The horse has a crease down the back. Spaces between the ribs are so filled with fat that the ribs are difficult to feel. The area along the withers and tailhead are filled with fat, though fat around the tailhead is very soft. The space behind the shoulders is filled in flush. There is some fat deposited along the inner buttocks.

9.



9. Extremely Fat

The back crease is very obvious, with fat appearing in patches over the ribs. There is bulging fat around the tailhead, withers, shoulders, and neck. The inner buttocks may be rubbing together due to excessive fat. The flank will be filled-in flush.