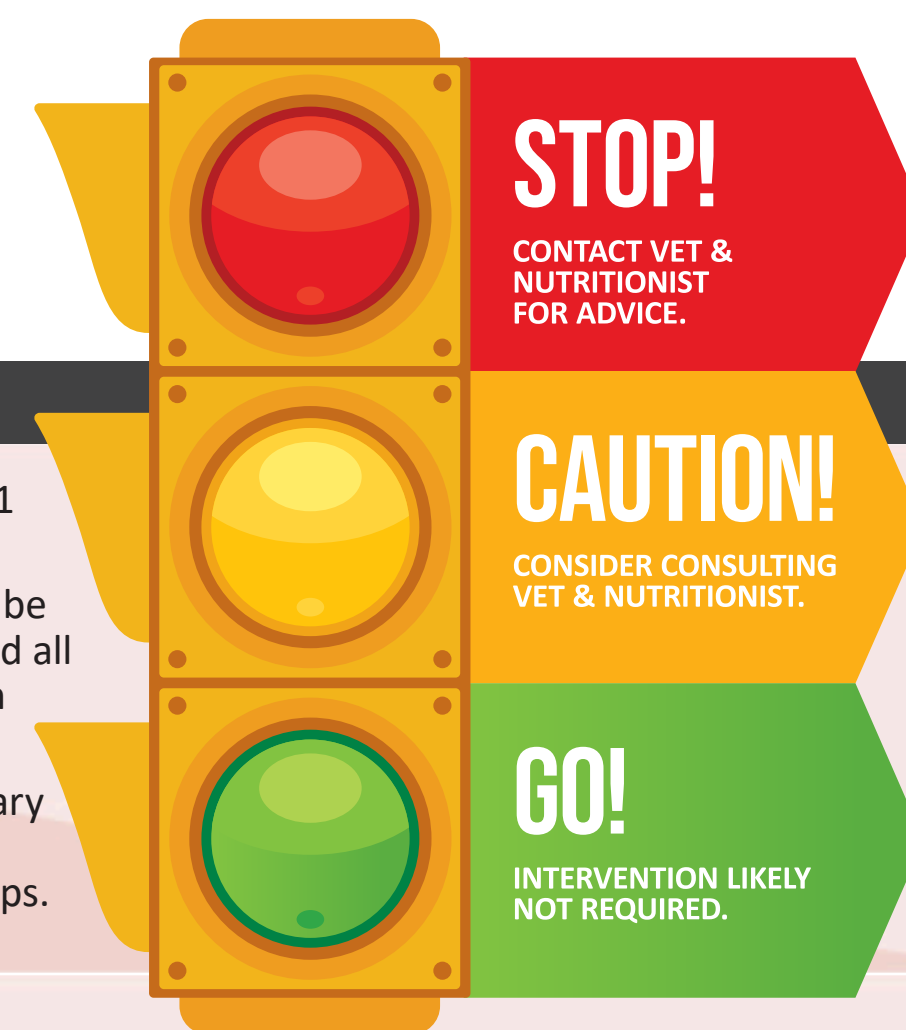


BODY CONDITION SCORING CHART

BCS adapted from Henneke, 1983



BSC	DIAGRAM	OBSERVATION & PALPATION	NOTES
01 POOR		<p>Neck: Bone structure (neck) easily noticeable. Animal extremely emaciated. No fatty tissue can be felt.</p> <p>Withers: Bone structure easily noticeable.</p> <p>Loin: Spinous processes (vertebrae) project prominently.</p> <p>Tailhead: Tailhead (pinbone) and hook bones (pelvis) project prominently.</p> <p>Ribs: No fat cover over ribs.</p> <p>Shoulders: Bone structure (scapula) easily noticeable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 1 are critical cases. No fatty tissue can be felt on the body and all reserves have been used up. Immediate veterinary care is required to determine next steps.
02 VERY THIN		<p>Neck: Faintly discernible, animal emaciated.</p> <p>Withers: Faintly discernible.</p> <p>Loin: Slight fat covering over base of spinous process. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent.</p> <p>Tailhead: Tailhead prominent.</p> <p>Ribs: Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.</p> <p>Shoulders: Accentuated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 2 are in serious shape. Immediate veterinary assistance is required.
03 THIN		<p>Neck: Accentuated.</p> <p>Withers: Accentuated.</p> <p>Loin: Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt.</p> <p>Tailhead: Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable.</p> <p>Ribs: Slightly fat-covered, easily discernible.</p> <p>Shoulders: Accentuated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stallions may drop to a BCS of 3 by the end of the breeding season if not carefully managed. Below 3 there may be impairment of reproductive capacity. Horses on winter pasture will lose condition and have no reserves to maintain body temperature.
04 MODERATELY THIN		<p>Neck: Not obviously thin.</p> <p>Withers: Not obviously thin.</p> <p>Loin: Negative crease along back (vertebrae protrude slightly).</p> <p>Tailhead: Prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible.</p> <p>Ribs: Faint outline discernible.</p> <p>Shoulders: Not obviously thin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 4 or less will have varying degrees of malnutrition, veterinary or nutrition consultation is suggested. Reproductive horses and horses in high level activity may have impaired thermoregulatory capabilities in cold or wet conditions.
05 MODERATE		<p>Neck: Blends smoothly into body.</p> <p>Withers: Rounded over spinous processes.</p> <p>Loin: Back is level.</p> <p>Tailhead: Fat around tailhead beginning to feel soft.</p> <p>Ribs: Cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt.</p> <p>Shoulders: Blend smoothly into body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 5 are in ideal condition for most classes of horses.
06 MODERATELY FLESHY		<p>Neck: Fat beginning to be deposited.</p> <p>Withers: Fat beginning to be deposited.</p> <p>Loin: May have slight positive crease down back, i.e., a depression along the midline.</p> <p>Tailhead: Fat around tailhead feels soft.</p> <p>Ribs: Fat over ribs feels spongy.</p> <p>Shoulders: Fat beginning to be deposited.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 6 are ideal for reproductive horses going into breeding season. Horses with lower demands should be monitored.
07 FLESHY		<p>Neck: Fat deposited along neck.</p> <p>Withers: Fat deposited along withers.</p> <p>Loin: May have positive crease down back.</p> <p>Tailhead: Fat around tailhead is soft.</p> <p>Ribs: Individual ribs can be felt with pressure. Noticeable filling between ribs with fat.</p> <p>Shoulders: Fat deposited behind shoulders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 7 are becoming overconditioned, veterinary or nutrition consultation is suggested. While adequate for mares going into foaling, horses in work should not be at this level as it imposes more stress on supportive tissues and thermoregulation becomes more challenging, particularly with humidity.
08 FAT		<p>Neck: Noticeable thickening.</p> <p>Withers: Area along withers filled with fat.</p> <p>Loin: Positive crease down back.</p> <p>Tailhead: Fat around tailhead is very soft. Fat deposited along inner buttocks.</p> <p>Ribs: Difficult to feel.</p> <p>Shoulders: Area behind shoulders filled in flush with body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 8 are in serious shape and require veterinary consultation. At a BCS of 8, breeding performance is compromised, skeletal and joint stress is increased, and horses are at higher risk of disease and injury.
09 EXTREMELY FAT		<p>Neck: Bulging fat.</p> <p>Withers: Bulging fat.</p> <p>Loin: Obvious positive crease down back, flank filled in flush.</p> <p>Tailhead: Bulging fat around tailhead. Inner buttocks pressed together when standing square.</p> <p>Ribs: Patchy fat appearing over ribs.</p> <p>Shoulders: Bulging fat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses in a BCS of 9 are at very high risk of disease, injury and thermoregulatory dysfunction. This body condition is a result of little to no exercise and extreme overfeeding of calories. Immediate veterinary consultation is required to determine next steps.

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