

# EQUINE BODY CONDITION SCORING

**1 POOR**  
Severely emaciated—bones sharply visible across the body with no detectable fat

**2 VERY THIN**  
Emaciated—bones prominent throughout, with only a trace of fat and faint muscle definition.

- Bones remain prominent along the spine, ribs, hips, and tailhead
- Slight fat over the spinous processes; lumbar transverse processes feel rounded
- Withers, shoulders, and neck show faint but noticeable skeletal definition.

**3 THIN**  
Moderate fat cover, but ribs and spine still visible; tailhead prominent and topline features accentuated.

- Fat halfway up the spinous processes; ribs and spine still visible despite slight fat cover
- Transverse processes not felt; tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae not visible
- Point of hip is rounded yet discernable; withers, shoulders, and neck remain accentuated

**4 MODERATE THIN**  
Slight topline ridge and faint ribs; tailhead padded, but withers, shoulders, and neck remain noticeably thin.

- Slight ridge along the back with a faint outline of ribs
- Tailhead shows some prominence, but fat is easily felt around it
- Point of hip is not visible; withers, shoulders, and neck remain obviously thin

**5 MODERATE**  
Flat back, ribs felt but not seen, spongy tailhead fat, and a smooth, rounded topline.

- Flat back with ribs not visible but easy to feel
- Spongy fat beginning to form around the tailhead
- Rounded withers and smooth blending of shoulder and neck into the body

**6 MODERATELY FLESHY**  
Slight back crease, spongy rib and tailhead fat, and soft deposits forming along withers, shoulders, and neck.

- Slight crease along the back with fleshy, spongy fat over the ribs
- Soft fat around the tailhead
- Early fat deposits along withers, behind shoulders, and along the neck

**7 FLESHY**  
Back crease present; ribs feelable but padded; soft tailhead fat and clear deposits along withers, shoulders, and neck.

- Back may show a crease; ribs feelable but padded with fat between them
- Soft fat around the tailhead
- Clear fat deposits along withers, behind shoulders, and along the neck

**8 FAT**  
Deep back crease, ribs hard to feel, very soft tailhead fat, and heavy deposits along withers, shoulders, neck, and inner thighs.

- Deep back crease with ribs difficult to feel and very soft fat around the tailhead
- Heavy fat deposits along withers, behind shoulders, and through the neck
- Noticeable inner-thigh fat creating a thick, rounded appearance

**9 EXTREMELY FAT**  
Deep back crease with patchy, bulging fat at the tailhead, withers, shoulders, and neck.

