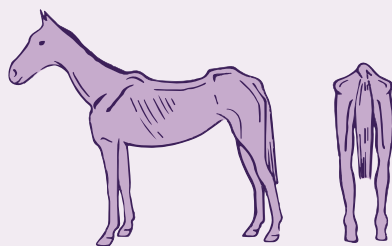


Fat Scoring Guide



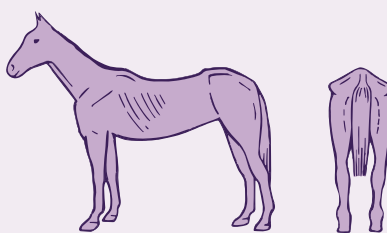
Learn how to identify if your horse is a healthy weight. Look at their fat covering in three sections – the neck, the middle and the hindquarters. Each horse carries their fat differently, so may not match just one category. After scoring each section, you'll need to work out the average overall score. You can use the formula below to do this: (Total sum of all scores) ÷ 3 = overall score

0 - Emaciated



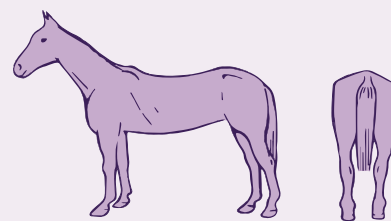
- No fat can be felt, skin is pulled tight over bones
- Very thin neck with little muscle and no fat along the topline – visible ewe neck (a neck that concaves instead of arches)
- Individual bones are visible to the eye
- Prominent backbone, pelvis and tailbone
- Sunken hindquarters
- Large gap between the thighs

1 - Thin



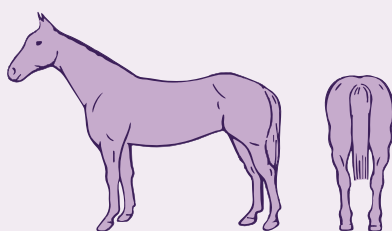
- Barely any fat can be felt
- Narrow ewe neck with very little muscle and fat along the topline
- Shape of bones visible to the eye – ribs can be seen and felt
- Prominent backbone, croup and tail head
- Sunken hindquarters
- Gap between thighs

2 - Lean



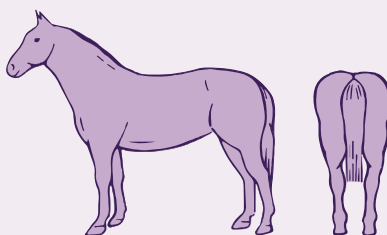
- Very thin layer of fat can be felt
- Narrow neck with sharply defined muscles
- Ribs are just visible and can be felt
- Backbone can be felt
- Hip bones are easily visible but covered by a thin layer of fat
- Hindquarters are sloping from the backbone to point of hips, and are only rounded if the horse is fit

3 - Ideal Weight



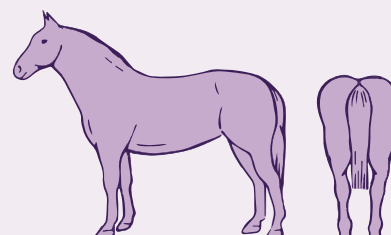
- Thin layer of fat can be felt
- Muscles on the neck are defined with a good topline and no crest on top
- Ribs are not visible but are easily felt
- Backbone is covered by fat but can still be felt
- Hindquarters are beginning to appear rounded
- Hip bones are slightly visible but easily felt

4 - Fat



- Muscles are hard to determine
- Spongy fat developing along the neck
- Fat can be seen and felt behind the shoulder
- Ribs, pelvis and hips are difficult to feel
- Hindquarters are rounded with spongy fat around the tail head
- A gutter can be seen along the backbone and hindquarters

5 - Obese



- Visible pads of fat with no visible muscles
- Large amount of hard fat on the neck (also known as cresty neck)
- Ribs and hips cannot be felt
- Deep gutter along the backbone and hindquarters
- Lumps of fat around the tail head
- Very bulging apple-shaped hindquarters
- Inner thighs are pressing together