BODY CONDITION SYSTEM™ CHART

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR PET SCORES?

Benefits of maintaining ideal body condition:

➤ Reduces potential for developing weight-related problems.

➤ Reduces percentage of body fat for better health.

If you have any questions, please call toll-free, 1-866-884-VETS (8387) weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

CANINE BODY CONDITION SYSTEM™ CHART

TOO THIN

1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No visible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No fat easily felt. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3 Ribs easily felt and may be visible with no covering fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

IDEAL

4 Ribs easily felt, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5 Ribs can be felt without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

TOO HEAVY

6 Ribs can be felt with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7 Ribs felt with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8 Ribs not able to be felt under very heavy fat cover, or felt only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.

FELINE BODY CONDITION SYSTEM™ CHART

TOO THIN

1 Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no fat easily felt; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia easily felt.

2 Ribs easily visible on shorthaired cats; lumbar vertebrae obvious with minimal muscle mass; pronounced abdominal tuck; no fat easily felt.

3 Ribs easily felt with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.

4 Ribs felt with minimal fat covering; noticeable waist behind ribs; slight abdominal tuck; abdominal fat pad absent.

IDEAL

5 Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs can be felt with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.

TOO HEAVY

6 Ribs can be felt with slight excess fat covering; waist and abdominal fat pad distinguishable but not obvious; abdominal tuck absent.

7 Ribs not easily felt with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.

8 Ribs cannot be felt due to excess fat covering; waist absent; obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad; fat deposits present over lumbar area.

9 Ribs not felt under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.

The **BODY CONDITION SYSTEM** was developed at the Nestlé Purina PetCare Center and has been published in the following journals:

Mawby D, Bartges JW, Moyers T, et. al. *Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs.* Compendium 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Laflamme DP. *Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs.* Canine Practice July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kealy, et. al. *Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs.* JAVMA 2002; 220:1315-1320