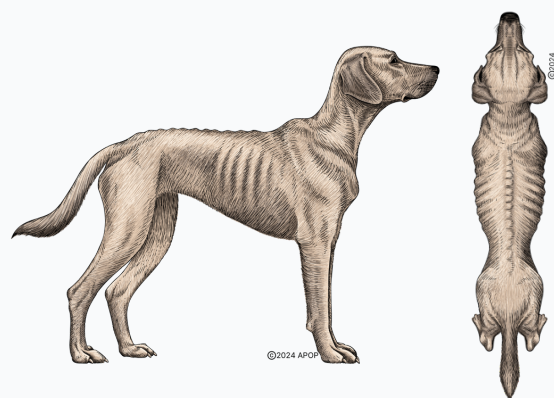


Canine Body Condition Score (BCS)

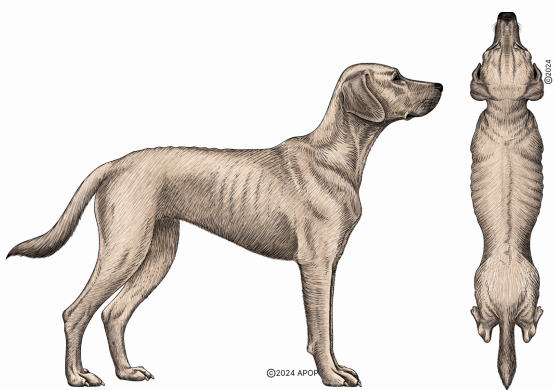


1 Emaciated

Extremely emaciated with very poor body condition.
Ribs: Projects prominently, with sharp bony edges; no layer of fat; easily visible.
Back/Spine: Project prominently.
Hips: Highly visible, sharp and protruding
Abdomen: Severe abdominal tuck with a concave appearance.
Waist (from above): Extremely narrow and sharply defined.

2 Very Thin

Ribs: Project prominently; Easily felt with a very minimal layer of fat.
Back/Spine: Vertebrae project prominently, with sharp bony edges.
Hips: Very visible and prominent sharp and protruding.
Abdomen: Very pronounced abdominal tuck with a concave appearance.
Waist (from above): Very narrow with and sharply defined.

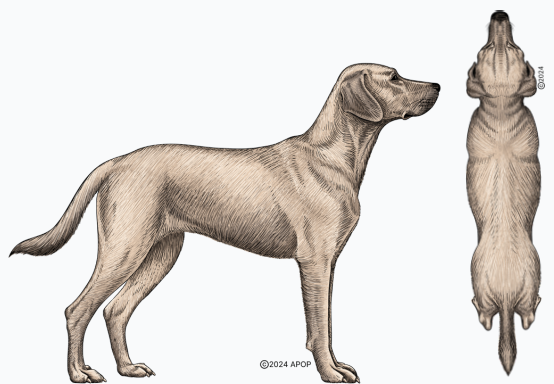


3 Thin

Ribs: May be visible; easily felt with a very light covering of fat.
Back/Spine: Top of lumbar vertebrae are visible.
Hips: Visible with minimal fat coverage.
Abdomen: Has a pronounced abdominal tuck.
Waist (from above): Visible waistline.

4 Moderately Thin

Ribs: Easily felt with a light covering of fat; Not visible.
Back/Spine: Vertebrae can be felt but are not sharp.
Hips: Less bony with a layer of fat coverage; May be visible but not sharply defined.
Abdomen: Slight abdominal tuck
Waist (from above): Noticeable waistline, but not overly narrow.

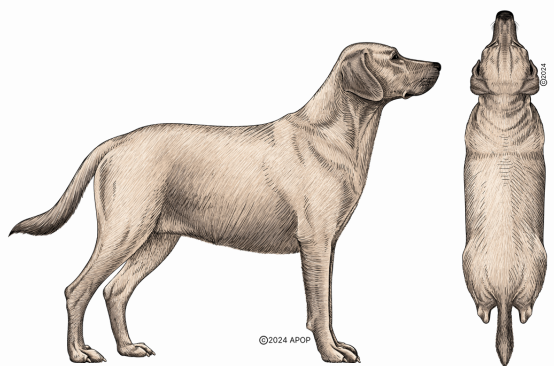


5 Ideal

Ribs: Can be felt and has a slight fat covering; not visible.
Back/Spine: Smooth and easily felt but not sharp or bony.
Hips: Rounded with a layer of fat.
Abdomen: Slight abdominal tuck.
Waist (from above): Noticeable waistline behind the ribs with an hourglass shape.

6 Moderately Above Ideal

Ribs: May be felt but with more difficulty; Not visible.
Back/Spine: Difficult to feel with more fat coverage.
Hips: Able to feel; no longer visible.
Abdomen: Slight abdominal tuck.
Waist (from above): Less defined, may have a slight waistline.

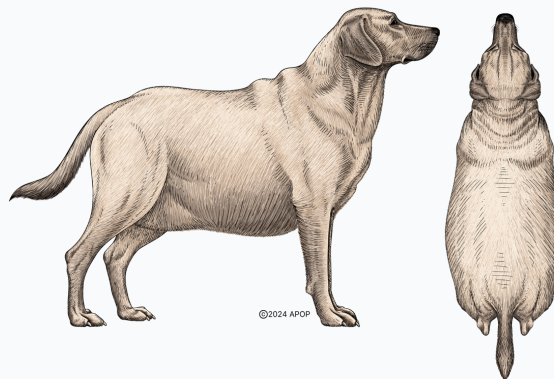


7 Overweight

Ribs: Difficult to feel under fat accumulation.
Back/Spine: Becoming difficult to feel.
Hips: Able to feel with some pressure; not visible; fat deposits present
Abdomen: No abdominal tuck.
Waist (from above): Barely visible or absent; body appears more rounded from above.

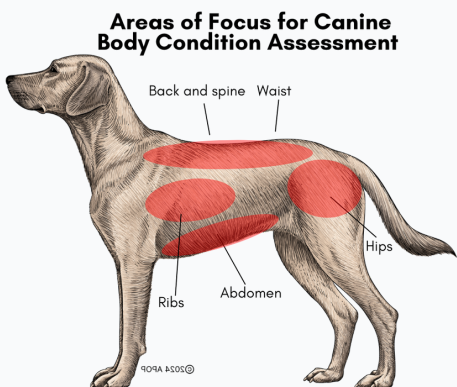
8 Obesity

Ribs: Unable to feel under fat accumulation.
Back/Spine: Unable to feel vertebrae; noticeably rounded with a significant layer of fat.
Hips: Not visible
Abdomen: Pronounced rounding of the abdomen and distension..
Waist (from above): Not visible, broad and rounded from above.
Notable fat deposits on the body.



9 Severe Obesity

Ribs: Unable to feel.
Back/Spine: Unable to feel.
Hips: Heavily padded with significant fat deposits; no definition.
Abdomen: Large hanging fat pad; pronounced abdominal distension and rounding.
Waist (from above): No waist, broad and rounded from above.
Significant fat deposits are noted over the body.



A body condition score (BCS) is a screening tool used by veterinary professionals to estimate body fat and help identify obesity, malnutrition, and metabolic issues. It is important to consult a veterinarian if you suspect your pet is overweight or underweight and before beginning a weight loss program.

Bjornvad CR, et al Evaluation of a nine-point body condition scoring system in physically inactive cats. *AJVR* 2011;72:433-437.
Laflamme DP Development and validation of a body condition score for cats. *Feline Pract* 1997; 25: 13-18.