

Equine Body condition scoring



Simon Bailey
(with acknowledgements to Dr. Sally Church)

Body weight:

- Used for calculating drug dosages
- Use weigh scales
- Or approximate using a weight tape
- Not useful for assessing body condition or adiposity (horses and ponies vary greatly in size)

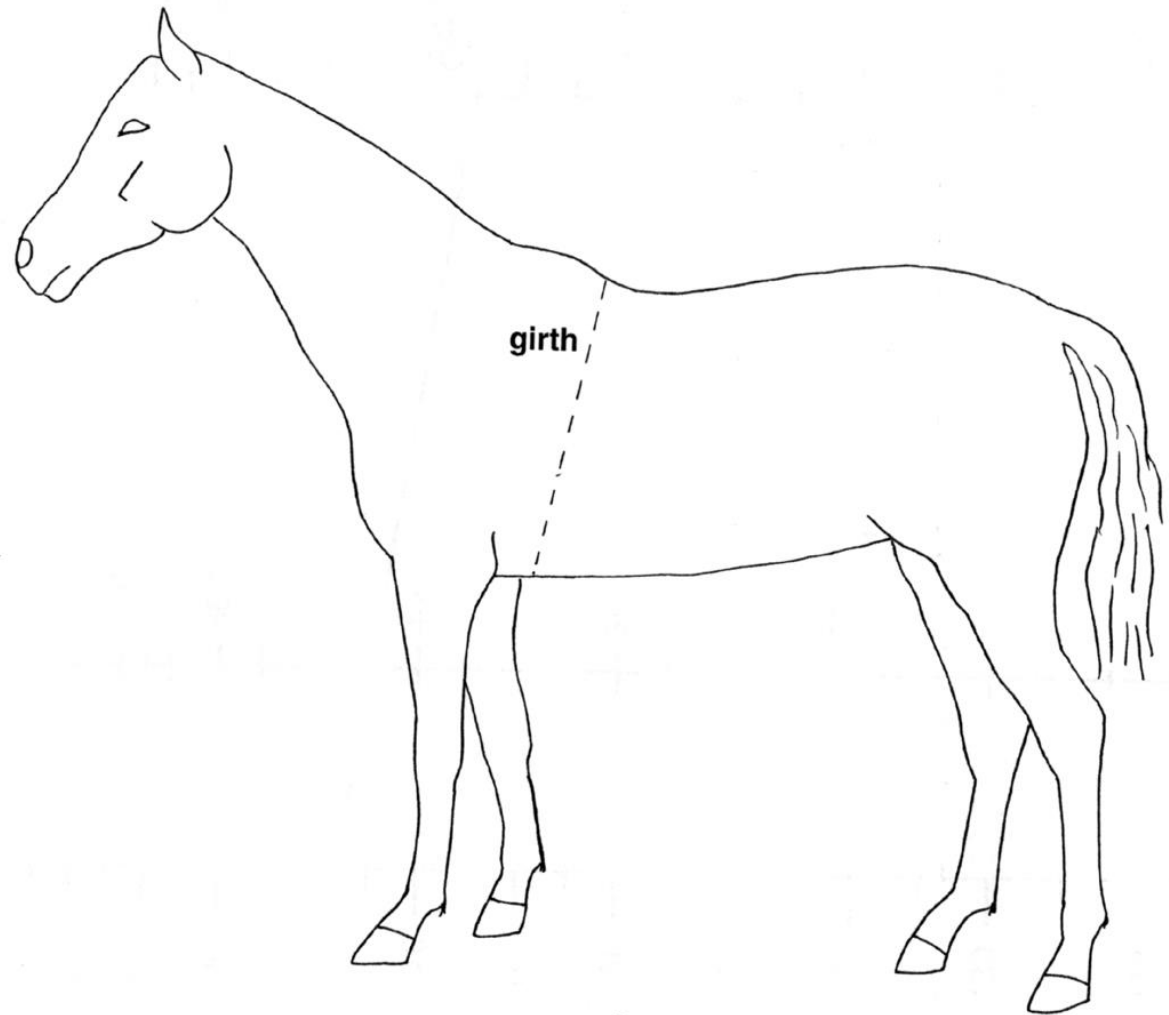
Body condition scoring:

- Used for assessing obesity
- And response to a weight loss diet
- Also for assessing emaciation or weight loss due to chronic disease or old age
- Assessing suitability for exercise or work

Estimating body weight:

Girth measured behind withers & elbow

Girth (cm)	Weight (kg)
100	90
110	120
120	150
130	185
140	230
150	285
160	345
170	410
180	475
190	545
200	615

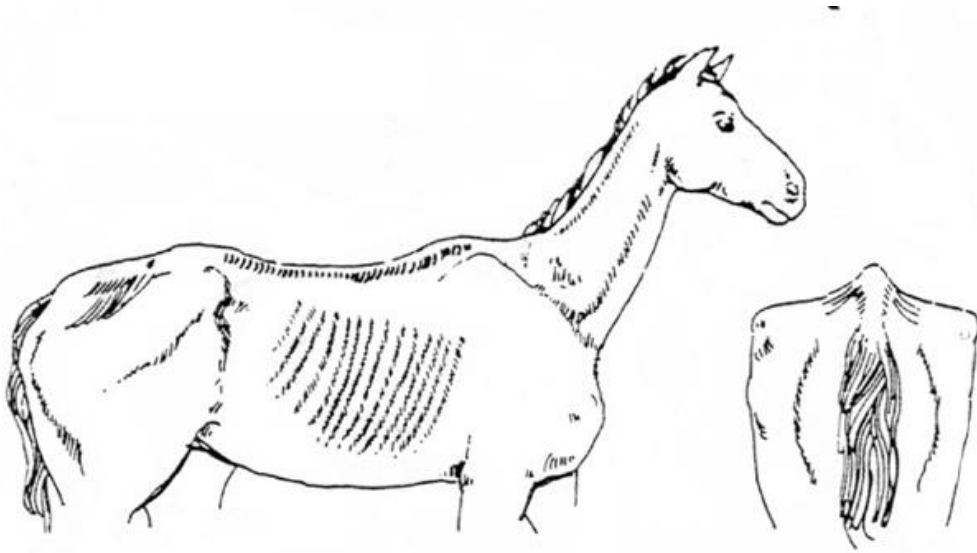


Measurement of girth

Body condition score

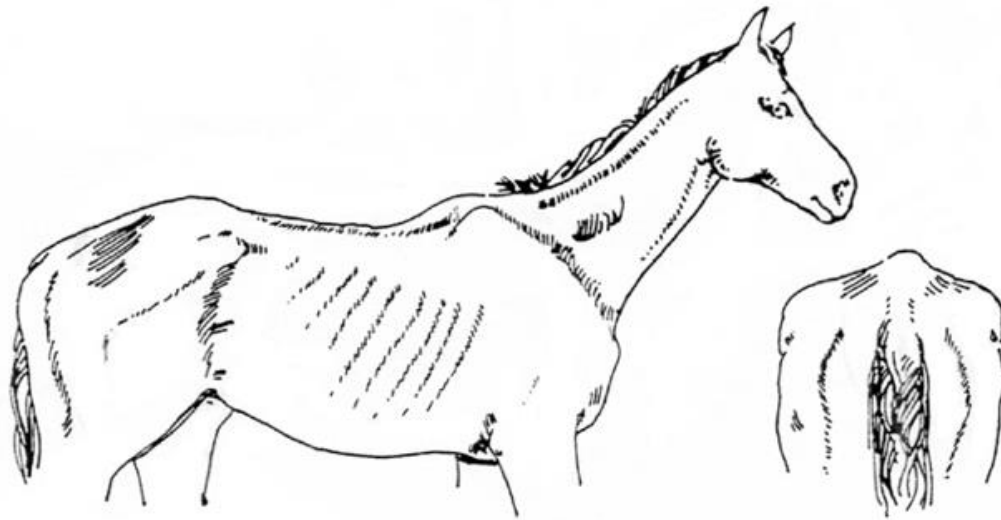
- Estimated on a scale of 0 to 5
- This gives 6 possible grades
 - Very poor (emaciated)
 - Poor
 - Moderate
 - Good
 - Fat
 - Very Fat (obese)
- A 9-point scale is also available (Henneke scale)
 - this is more discerning for monitoring changes

Body Score 0 ≡ Very Poor (emaciated)



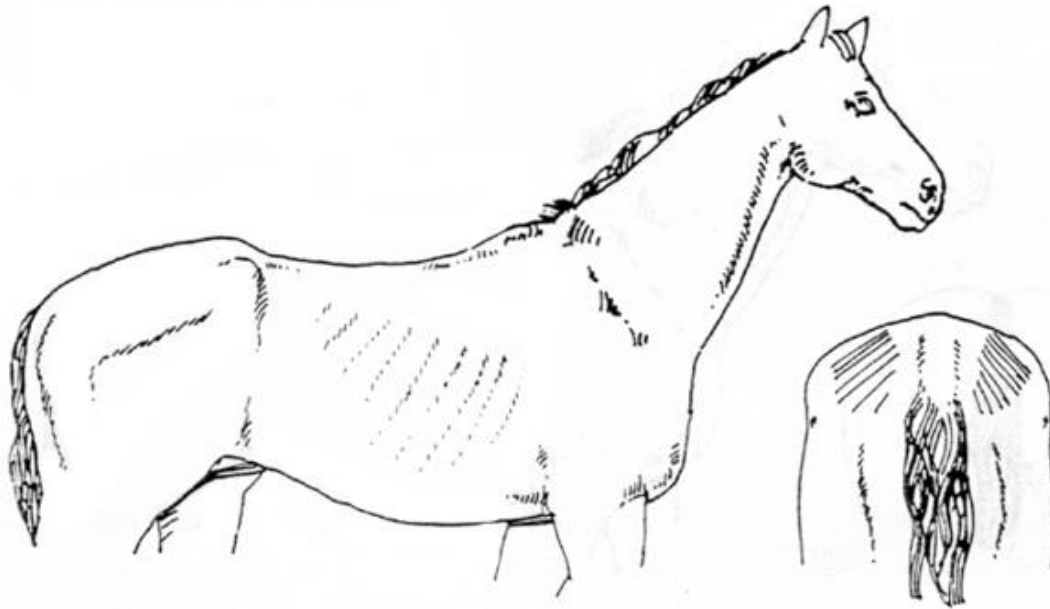
- marked ewe neck
- very sunken rump
- very prominent backbone & pelvis
- skin tight over bones
- deep cavity under tail

Body Score 1 ≡ Poor



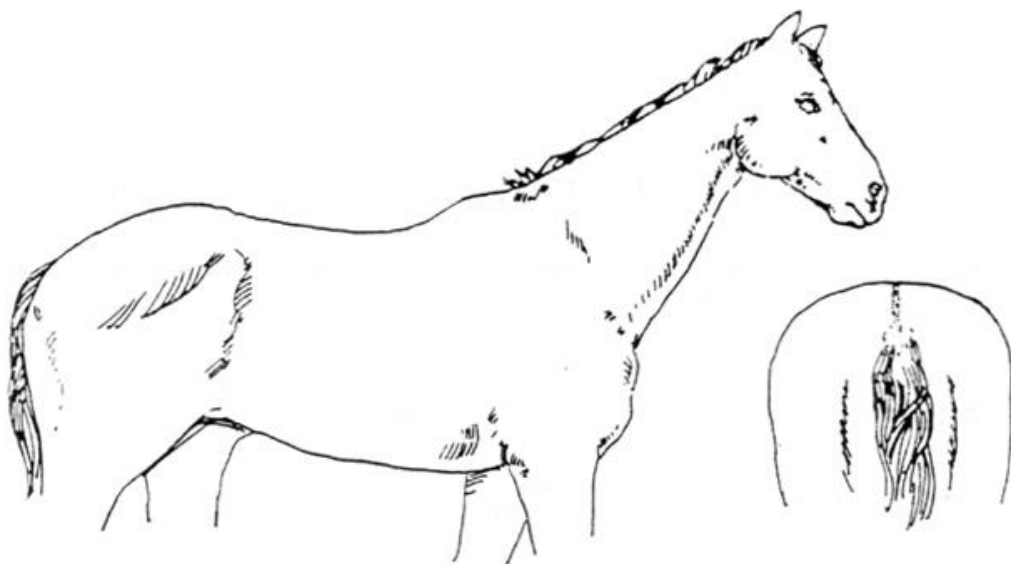
- ewe neck
- sunken rump
- prominent backbone & pelvis
- ribs easily visible
- cavity under tail

Body Score 2 ≡ Moderate or Fair



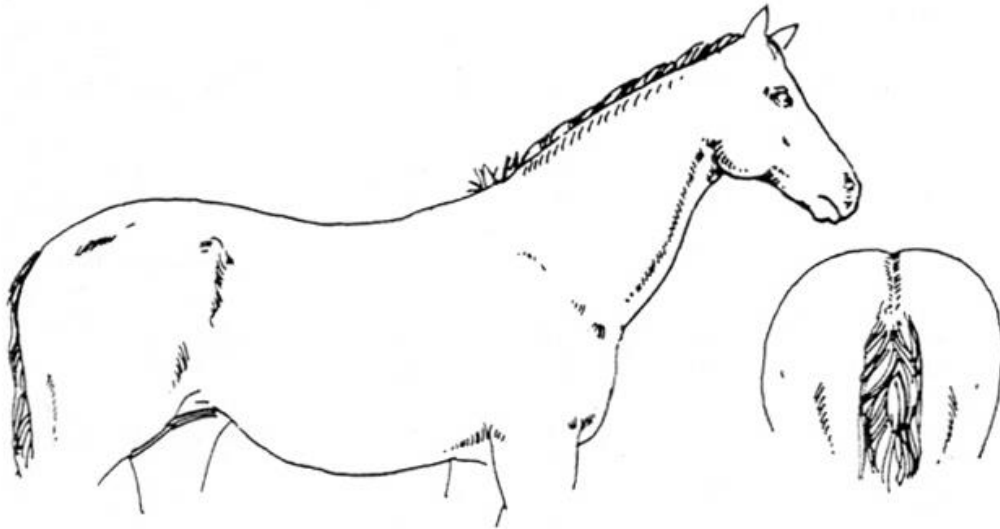
- straight narrow neck
- flat rump
- backbone well covered
- ribs just visible

Body Score 3 ≡ Good



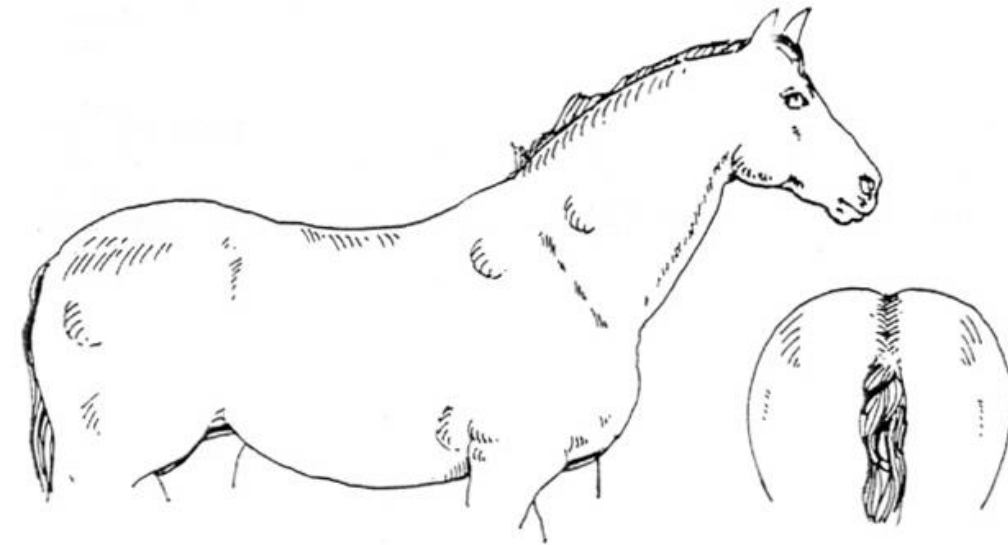
- straight firm neck
- no crest
- rounded rump
- ribs not visible but easily felt

Body Score 4 ≡ Fat



- slight crest
- well rounded rump
- gutter along back
- ribs & pelvis hard to feel

Body Score 5 ≡ Very fat / obese



- marked crest
- bulging rounded rump
- deep gutter along back
- ribs & pelvis buried
- lumps and folds of fat

Body score 0



Body score 1-2



Body score 2



Body score 4



Body score 5



Body score ?



Body score ?



Body score ?

