



## Background information for Feeding evaluation and ration development

Horse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Horse's details (as accurate as possible):

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Girth \_\_\_\_\_ cm Length \_\_\_\_\_ cm

(Girth and Length size are required to calculate weight if weight is not known)

Temperament:      Calm      Nervous      Slightly excited but usually fairly calm

(Temperament is an indicator of energy requirement as more anxious horses require more energy than a relaxed one)

### Activity:

What do you mainly use your horse for? \_\_\_\_\_

On Average –

- How often do you ride/work your horse? \_\_\_\_\_
- When you do ride/work your horse, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
- How much does your horse walk in each session?      20%      30%      40%
- How much does your horse canter in each session?      10%      20%      30%
- Do you gallop your horse? If so, for how long?      <10mins      10 to 20mins      >20mins

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Current diet:

How much hay does your horse get daily? \_\_\_\_\_ biscuits \_\_\_\_\_ kg (if known)

Type of hay \_\_\_\_\_

What else is fed (on average) daily and how much? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your horse have access to grass/pasture? \_\_\_\_\_

If so (on average) how often and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

How long is the pasture/grass?            <5cm    5 to 10cm            >10cm

How dense is the pasture?    Mostly bare patches    Half grass/half weeds & dirt    Lots of grass

What is the pasture type?

Mostly legumes and introduced    About half introduced/half native grasses    Mostly native

Additional information:

Is your horse stabled?    Yes    No

If Yes, (on average) how often and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your horse have access to water day and night? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of water?    Dam    Creek    Bore    Town    Other

On a scale of 1 to 9, what is your horse's body condition score (BCS)? – see attached chart

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Does your horse have any problems with any type of feed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else about your horse that may influence its health, temperament and nutritional requirements? Provide as much information as you think is relevant.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# How to Estimate a Horse's Weight

## Step 1. Measure the girth of the horse

To measure girth correctly, the tape (weight tape or conventional measuring tape) should be snugly positioned around the horse's barrel, directly behind the elbow and passing over the back at the lowest part of the withers.

### Step 1: Measure Heart Girth



## Step 2. Measure the length of the horse

To measure length correctly, place one end of the measuring tape on the point of the shoulder, keep the tape taut and run it diagonally to the point of the buttock. Stand by the horse's back leg and read the tape without peering around the horse's body.

### Step 2: Measure Body Length

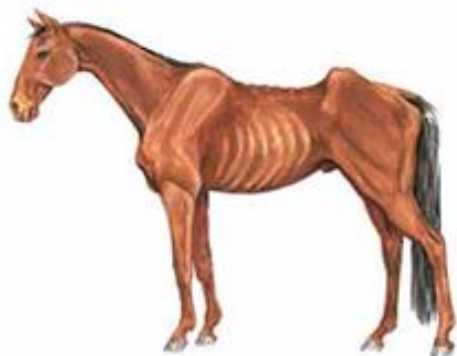


## Step 3. Calculate weight using following formula

$$\text{WEIGHT (KGS)} = \frac{\text{GIRTH (CM)} \times \text{LENGTH (CM)}}{11877}$$

## Equine Body Condition Score

the **HORSE**  
YOUR GUIDE TO EQUINE HEALTH CARE



1



| SCORE | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | <b>POOR</b><br>Horse is extremely emaciated. The backbone, ribs, hipbones, and tailhead project prominently. Bone structure of the withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable. No fatty tissues can be felt. |
|       | <b>VERY THIN</b><br>Horse is emaciated. Slight fat covering over vertebrae. Backbone, ribs, tailhead, and hipbones are prominent. Withers, shoulders, and neck structures are discernible.                       |

**3** **THIN**  
Fat built up about halfway on vertebrae. Slight fat layer can be felt over ribs, but ribs easily discernible. The tailhead is evident, but individual vertebrae cannot be seen. The hipbones cannot be seen, but withers, shoulder, and neck are emphasized.

**4** **MODERATELY THIN**  
Negative crease along back. Faint outline of ribs can be seen. Fat can be felt along tailhead. Hip bones cannot be seen. Withers, neck, and shoulders not obviously thin.



3

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBIN PETERSON, DVM; BASED ON TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY BODY CONDITION SCORE



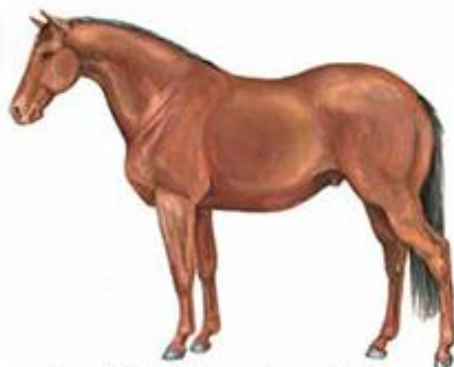
5



**5** **MODERATE**  
Back is level. Ribs can be felt, but not easily seen. Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy. Withers are rounded and shoulders and neck blend smoothly into the body.

**6** **MODERATELY FLESHY**  
May have a slight crease down the back. Fat on the tailhead feels soft. Fat over the ribs feels spongy. Fat beginning to be deposited along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders, and along the neck.

**7** **FLESHY**  
A crease is seen down the back. Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat. Fat around tailhead is soft. Noticeable fat deposited along the withers, behind the shoulders, and along the neck.



9



**8** **FAT**  
Crease down back is prominent. Ribs difficult to feel due to fat in between. Fat around tailhead very soft. Area along withers filled with fat. Area behind shoulders filled in flush with the barrel of the body. Noticeable thickening of neck. Fat deposited along the inner buttocks.

**9** **EXTREMELY FAT**  
Obvious crease down back. Fat is in patches over rib area, with bulging fat over tailhead, withers, neck, and behind shoulders. Fat along inner buttocks may rub together. Flank is filled in flush with the barrel of the body.

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| Condition                     | Neck                                         | Withers                                         | Shoulder                                          | Ribs                                                                              | Loin                                                                                                                                   | Tailhead                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Poor              | Bone structure easily noticeable             | Bone structure easily noticeable                | Bone structure easily noticeable                  | Ribs protruding prominently                                                       | Spinous processes projecting prominently                                                                                               | Tailhead, pinbones, and hook bones projecting prominently                                                                                                        |
| <b>2</b><br>Very thin         | Bone structure faintly discernible           | Bone structure faintly discernible              | Bone structure faintly discernible                | Ribs prominent                                                                    | Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes prominent | Tailhead prominent                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>3</b><br>Thin              | Neck accentuated                             | Withers accentuated                             | Shoulder accentuated                              | Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible                               | Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible; transverse processes cannot be felt                                   | Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified; hook bones appear rounded but still easily discernible; pin bones not distinguishable |
| <b>4</b><br>Moderately thin   | Neck not obviously thin                      | Withers not obviously thin                      | Shoulder not obviously thin                       | Faint outline of ribs discernible                                                 | Negative crease (peaked appearance) along back                                                                                         | Prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt; Hook bones not discernible                                                                                  |
| <b>5</b><br>Moderate          | Neck blends smoothly into body               | Withers rounded over spinous processes          | Shoulder blends smoothly into body                | Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt                      | Back is level                                                                                                                          | Fat around tailhead feels somewhat soft                                                                                                                          |
| <b>6</b><br>Moderately fleshy | Deposited fat faintly discernible along neck | Deposited fat faintly discernible along withers | Deposited fat faintly discernible behind shoulder | Fat over ribs feels spongy                                                        | May have slight positive crease (groove) down back                                                                                     | Fat around tailhead feels soft                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>7</b><br>Fleshy            | Fat deposited along neck                     | Fat deposited along withers                     | Fat deposited behind shoulder                     | Individual ribs can be felt with pressure but noticeable fat filling between ribs | May have positive crease down back                                                                                                     | Fat around tailhead is soft                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>8</b><br>Fat               | Noticeable thickening of neck                | Area along withers filled with fat              | Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body    | Difficult to feel ribs                                                            | Positive crease down back                                                                                                              | Fat around tailhead very soft                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>9</b><br>Extremely fat     | Bulging fat along neck                       | Bulging fat along withers                       | Bulging fat behind shoulder                       | Patchy fat over ribs                                                              | Obvious crease down back                                                                                                               | Bulging fat around tailhead                                                                                                                                      |

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