

# Body Condition Tool

Too Thin

- 1 Severely Underweight**
- Ribs, backbone and hip bones all highly visible<sup>1</sup> with complete absence of any fat
  - Severely exaggerated waistline<sup>2</sup>
  - Tummy non-existent<sup>3</sup>

- 2 Very Thin**
- Ribs and backbone easily seen<sup>1</sup> with no overlying fat layer
  - Exaggerated waistline<sup>2</sup>
  - Severe tummy tuck<sup>3</sup>

- 3 Thin**
- Ribs and backbone are easily felt and seen<sup>1</sup> with minimal overlying fat layer
  - Noticeable waistline<sup>2</sup>
  - Distinct tummy tuck with no belly fat<sup>3</sup>

- 4 Slightly Underweight**
- Ribs can be felt and may/may not be seen<sup>1</sup> with very thin layer of overlying fat
  - Obvious waistline<sup>2</sup>
  - Slight tummy tuck with minimal belly fat<sup>3</sup>



Ideal

- 5**
- Ribs can be felt and may/may not be seen<sup>1</sup> with a small layer of overlying fat
  - A clear waistline can be seen<sup>2</sup>
  - Visible tummy tuck<sup>3</sup>



Too Heavy

- 6 Overweight**
- Ribs can be felt, but generally can't be seen<sup>1</sup>, with a distinct layer of overlying fat
  - Waistline is not clear<sup>2</sup>
  - Tummy may bulge slightly outwards and sag downwards<sup>3</sup>, with a small fat pad

- 7 Very Overweight**
- Ribs are hard to feel and see<sup>1</sup> with a thickened layer of overlying fat
  - Waistline is difficult to see<sup>2</sup>
  - Tummy bulges outwards and may sag downwards<sup>3</sup>, with noticeable fat pad that may wobble when cat moves

- 8 Obese**
- Ribs can't be felt or seen with a very thick layer of overlying fat
  - Additional fat pads present over the lower back
  - Waistline is absent<sup>2</sup>
  - Tummy bulges outwards and sags downwards<sup>3</sup>, with obvious fat pad that probably wobbles or sways when cat moves

- 9 Clinically Obese**
- Ribs are impossible to feel with a marked layer of very thick overlying fat
  - Additional heavy fat pads are noticeable over the lower back, legs and around the face
  - Waistline is absent<sup>2</sup>
  - Tummy distinctly bulges outwards and sags downwards<sup>3</sup>, with a substantial fat pad that wobbles or sways when cat moves



<sup>1</sup> In short-haired dogs. <sup>2</sup> When viewed from above. <sup>3</sup> When viewed from the side. The Body Condition System was developed at the Nestlé Purina Petcare Centre and has been validated in the following publications Laflamme DP. Feline Practice 1997; 25:13-17. Laflamme et al. Compendium 2001; 23 (Suppl 9A):88