

Body Condition Score

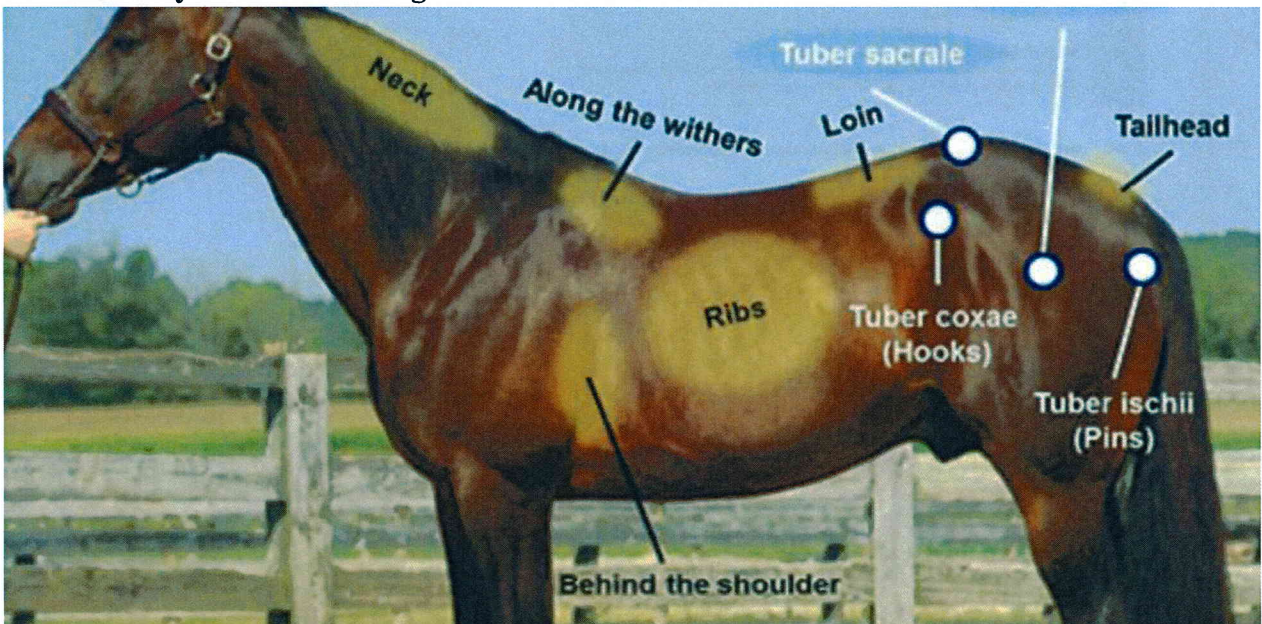
Just like in people, over- and underweight in horses can have serious consequences. It can also be caused by an underlying health problem. Either way, a horse in healthy condition has a good amount of muscle, not too much fat and doesn't lack any of the nutrients he needs for good immunity and healthy cells.

Parade Conditions

Here are 4 preliminary points for health requirements for Parade participation.

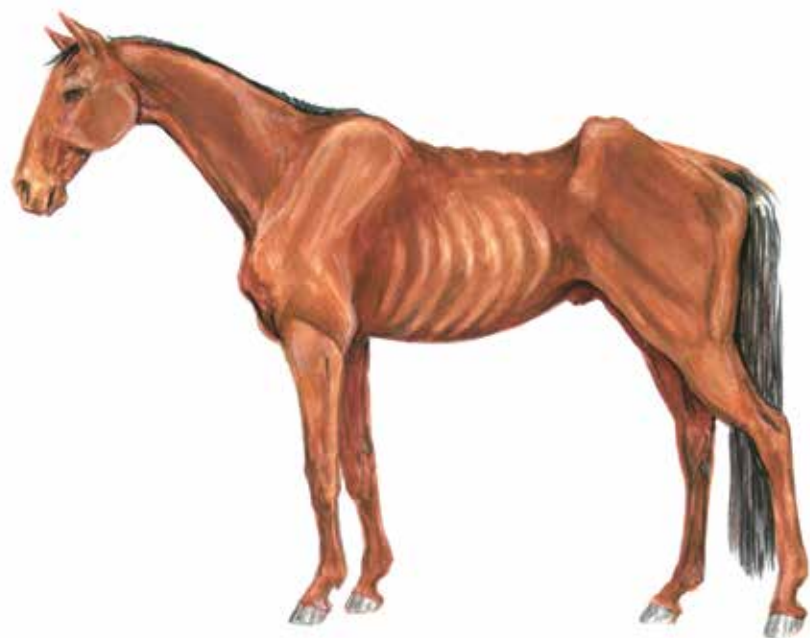
1. Body Score of 4 or more
2. Hooves trimmed and/or shod within last 30 days
3. Free of any signs of health issues
 - Cough, sinus discharge, diarrhea, lameness, rain rot (fungus), open wounds, etc.
 - Normal temperature
4. Mane and tail groomed

Points of body condition scoring



Equine Body Condition Score

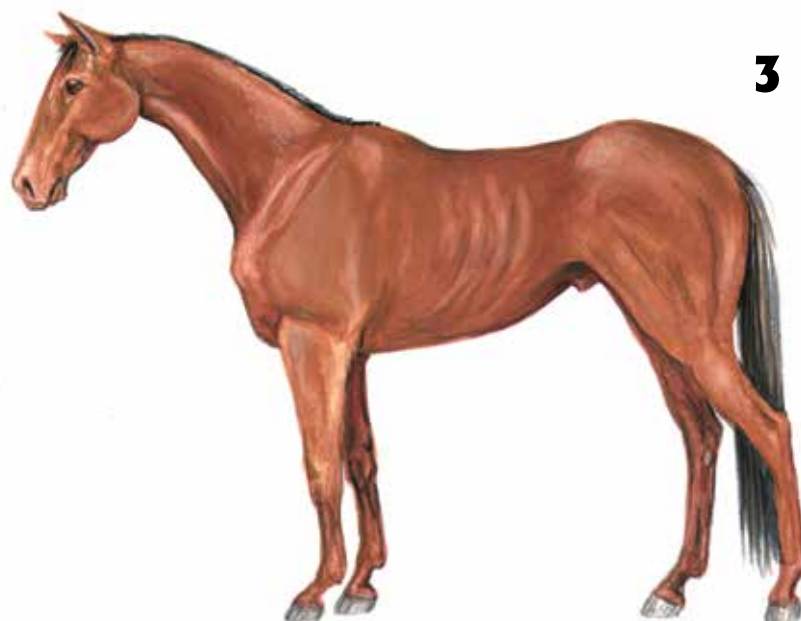
the **HORSE**
YOUR GUIDE TO EQUINE HEALTH CARE



1



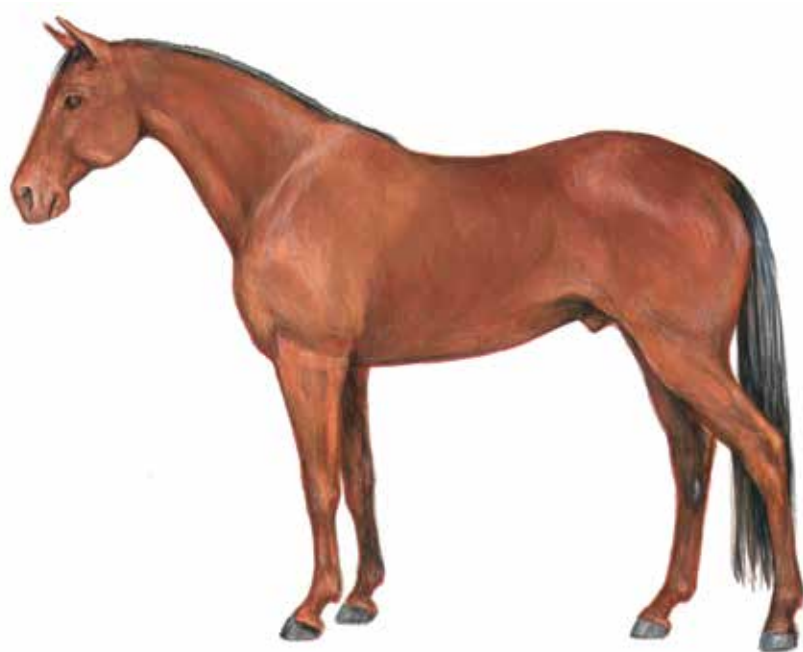
SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	POOR Horse is extremely emaciated. The backbone, ribs, hipbones, and tailhead project prominently. Bone structure of the withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable. No fatty tissues can be felt.
2	VERY THIN Horse is emaciated. Slight fat covering over vertebrae. Backbone, ribs,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



3

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.

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



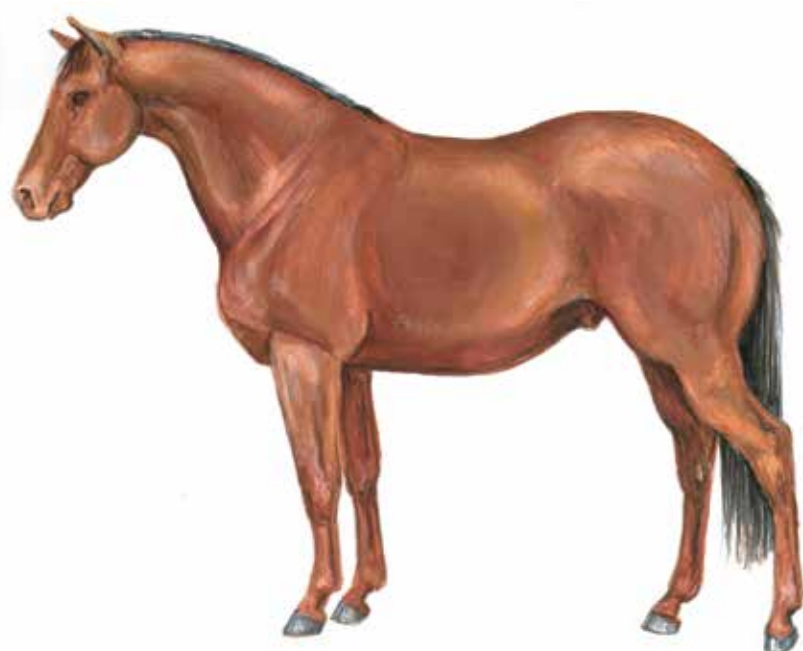
5



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.



7




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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Score	3
Condition	Thin
Description	<p>Fat is built up about halfway on spinous processes, transverse processes cannot be felt. Slight fat cover over ribs. Spinous processes and ribs are easily discernible. Tail head is prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are easily discernible. Pin bones are not distinguishable. Withers, shoulders and neck are accentuated.</p>
	

Score	4
Condition	Moderately thin
Description	<p>Negative crease along back (spinous processes of vertebrae protrude slightly above surrounding tissue). Faint outline of ribs is discernible. Fat can be felt around the tail head; however, the tail head may or may not be visible depending on the breed. Hook bones are not discernible. Withers, shoulders and neck are not obviously thin.</p>
	

Score	5
Condition	Moderate
Description	<p>Back is level. Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but can be easily felt. Fat around tail head begins to feel spongy. Withers appear rounded over spinous processes. Shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.</p>
