

BODY CONDITIONING SCORING GUIDE FOR CATS



UNDERWEIGHT

1		Ribs clearly visible* ; no fat layer palpable over ribs; Very strongly drawn in belly line; very narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones easily visible / palpable.
2		Ribs visible* ; no fat layer palpable; Strongly drawn in belly line; very narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones visible / palpable.
3		Ribs easily visible* ; minimal fat layer palpable; Drawn in belly line; narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones barely visible / palpable.

IDEAL

4		Ribs not visible* ; light fat layer palpable; Ribs can be delineated from one another upon palpation; Slightly drawn in belly line; distinct waist; Minimal quantity of belly fat.
5		Well-proportioned cat ; Ribs not visible*; light fat layer palpable; Ribs can be delineated from one another upon palpation; Small amount of belly fat; slightly drawn in waist.

OVERWEIGHT

6		Ribs difficult to palpate and just barely distinguishable from one another ; Belly line barely drawn in; waist barely noticeable.
7		Ribs difficult to palpate ; Belly line not drawn in; waist barely recognisable; Moderate amount of belly fat; waist circumference slightly enlarged.
8		Ribs cannot be palpated under the fat layer ; Belly line not drawn in; waist not recognisable; Significant amount of belly fat; waist circumference significantly enlarged.
9		Ribs cannot be palpated under an excessive layer of fat ; Excessive amount of belly fat; waist circumference greatly enlarged; Fat deposits in the lumbar region and on the limbs.

* Assessment of the ribs in short-haired cats
©2022. All rights reserved. Modified acc. to WSAVA or the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association.

