WSAVA
Global Nutrition Committee

Updated on August 13, 2020

Body Condition Score

UNDER IDEAL

1. Ribs very easily seen on short-haired cats. No fat pads present. Severe abdominal tuck. Lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily seen and felt.
2. Ribs easily seen on short-haired cats. Lumbar vertebrae obvious. Pronounced abdominal tuck. No fat pads present.
3. Ribs easily felt with minimal fat covering. Lumbar vertebrae obvious. Obvious waist behind ribs. Minimal abdominal fat pads.
4. Ribs felt with minimal fat covering. Noticeable waist behind ribs. Slight abdominal tuck. Minimal abdominal fat pads.

IDEAL

5. Well-proportioned. Ribs felt with slight fat covering. Waist seen behind ribs, but not pronounced. Abdminal fat pad minimal.

OVER IDEAL

6. Ribs felt with slight excess fat covering. Waist and abdominal fat pad present but not obvious. Abdominal tuck absent.*
7. Ribs not easily felt through moderate fat covering. Waist not easily seen. Slight rounding of abdomen may be present. Moderate abdominal fat pad.
8. Ribs not felt due to excess fat covering. Waist absent. Obvious rounding of abdomen with prominent abdominal fat pad. Fat deposits present over lower back area.
9. Ribs not felt under heavy fat cover. Heavy fat deposits over lumb area, face and limbs. Distention of abdomen with no wais ens abdominal fat deposits.

**A body condition score of 6/9 may be acceptable in some cats, especially older cats.*

Bjornvad CR, et al. Evaluation of a nine-point body condition scoring system in physically inactive pet cats. AJVR 2011;72:433-437.
Laflamme DP. Development and validation of a body condition score system for cats: A clinical tool. *Feline Pract* 1997;25:13-18.
Teng KT et al., Strong associations of 9-point body condition scoring with survival and lifespan in cats. J Feline Med Surg. 2018;20(12):1110-1118. DOI: 10.1177/1098612X17752198

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