

# HORSE HEALTH AND WELLBEING CHECK



**RED:** Seek veterinary advice immediately **AMBER:** Monitor your horse closely **GREEN:** Good health and well being

## WOUNDS/SADDLE/GIRTH

No visible marks  
Heat/swelling/tenderness  
Pain/bleeding/temperature

## MUSCLES/BACK

Relaxed  
Tender/slight stiffness  
Very tight/painful

## RECTAL TEMPERATURE

<38.6 °C rest  
39.5-40.4 °C during ride  
> 40.5 °C

## ANAL TONE

Tight  
Slightly loose  
Flaccid

## GUT SOUNDS

Normal  
Infrequent/increased  
Absent/abnormal

## HEART RATE (RESTING HORSE)

28-44 beats/min  
>60 beats/min  
>80 beats/min

## IMPULSION

Free and happy to work  
Tripping/reluctant to move forward  
Lameness/stiffness

## JUGULAR REFILL

1-2 seconds  
2-3 seconds  
>4 seconds

## RESPIRATORY RATE (AT REST)

8-10 breaths/min  
Panting  
Laboured/heaving

## JOINTS/LEGS

No heat or swelling  
Heat/swelling  
Pain/raw bleeding

## STRIDE

Free and sound  
Shortness/head nodding  
Abnormal stride/Unable to bear weight

## ATTITUDE

Alert/normal appetite and water intake  
Lethargic and depressed  
Absence of appetite/thirst  
/not interested/change in defecation

## EYES

Clear and bright  
Glazed expression  
Staring/sunken

## CAPILLARY REFILL

0-1 seconds  
2-3 seconds  
> 4 seconds

## MUCOUS MEMBRANES

Moist/Pink  
Pale/Tacky  
Dry/Blue/Purple

## SKIN PINCH

0-1.5 seconds  
2-3 seconds  
> 4 seconds

working with

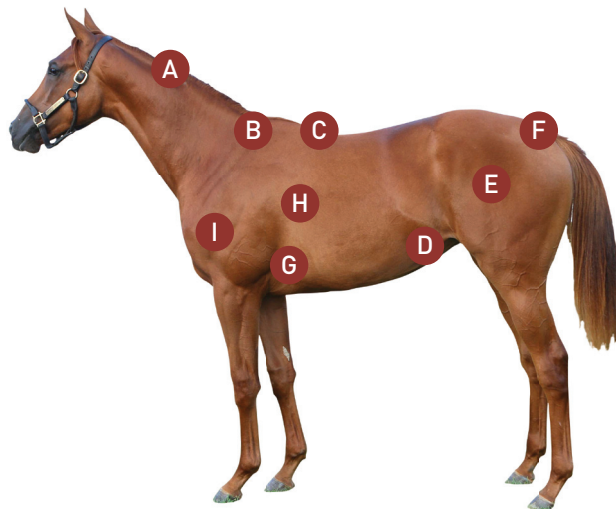


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# BODY CONDITION SCORING CHART

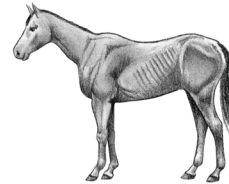


## Areas of Emphasis for Body Condition Scoring

- A:** Thickening of the neck
- B:** Fat covering the withers
- C:** Fat deposits along backbone
- D:** Fat deposit on flanks
- E:** Fat deposits on inner thigh
- F:** Fat deposits around tailhead
- G:** Fat deposit behind shoulder
- H:** Fat covering ribs
- I:** Shoulder blends into neck

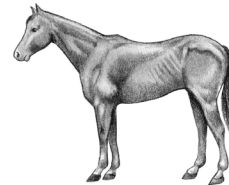
### 1 Poor

Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischii projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.



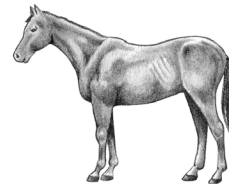
### 2 Very Thin

Animal emaciated; slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischii prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernible.



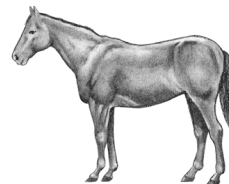
### 3 Thin

Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernible; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae appear rounded but easily discernible; tuber ischii not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.



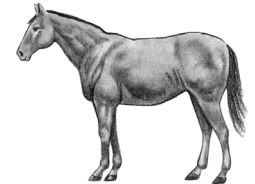
### 4 Moderately Thin

Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae not discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.



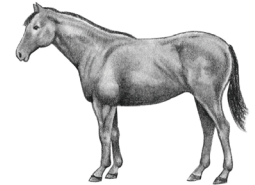
### 5 MODERATE

Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



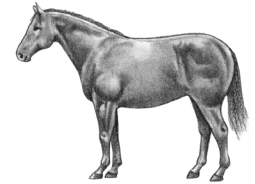
### 6 Moderately Fleshy

May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs fleshy/ spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along sides of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.



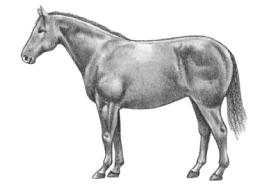
### 7 Fleshy

May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.



### 8 Fat

Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.



### 9 Extremely Fat

Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing

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