

Canine

A review of various animal physiques has led to the development of the Body Condition Guide – a convenient way to consistently and objectively assess the body condition of dogs. Body Condition assessments are an excellent way to determine a pet's food intake and one very important visual factor in assessing overall health and general well being.

Any feeding guide is exactly that – a guide – as energy requirements can vary up or down by 25% depending on the life stage, coat type, body conformation, age, environmental factors and activity levels.

The Body Condition Guide is a useful tool in teaching clients/owners how to monitor their pet's physique. This assessment helps in the management of an ideal body condition and the early identification of possible health-related issues.

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Canine Body Condition Guide

1



EMACIATED No obvious body fat. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones all evident from a distance. Noticeable loss of muscle mass.

2



POOR Minimal body fat. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones easily felt and possibly visible with no obvious fat. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3



IDEAL Optimum body fat and muscle tone. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and waist well proportioned.

4



SOLID Visible body fat and minimal muscle tone. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones with noticeable fat deposits and a minimal waist evident.

5



OBESITY Extreme fat deposits evident around the ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones. No waist evident.

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