



## Horse Body Condition Score

The Body Condition Score System is a way for horse owners to monitor their horse's weight without a scale. This system helps you estimate the amount of fat present on your horse's body and will help you decide how to adjust your feeding program.

The body condition score system goes from 1 to 9 with 1 being "poor condition" and 9 being "extremely fat". The ideal body condition would be 5 or 6.

A horse's body condition should be monitored throughout the year, especially in the winter, when longer, thicker hair coats may hide the horse's actual condition. It is recommended that owners who use blankets, remove them weekly and physically feel their horse's rib areas to check for any weight loss during the cold weather.

Locations on the horse to monitor body condition are: Along the neck, along the withers, crease down back, tail head, ribs, behind the shoulder.

Additional information about body condition can be found on The Horse website at: <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/36870/breaking-down-body-condition>

