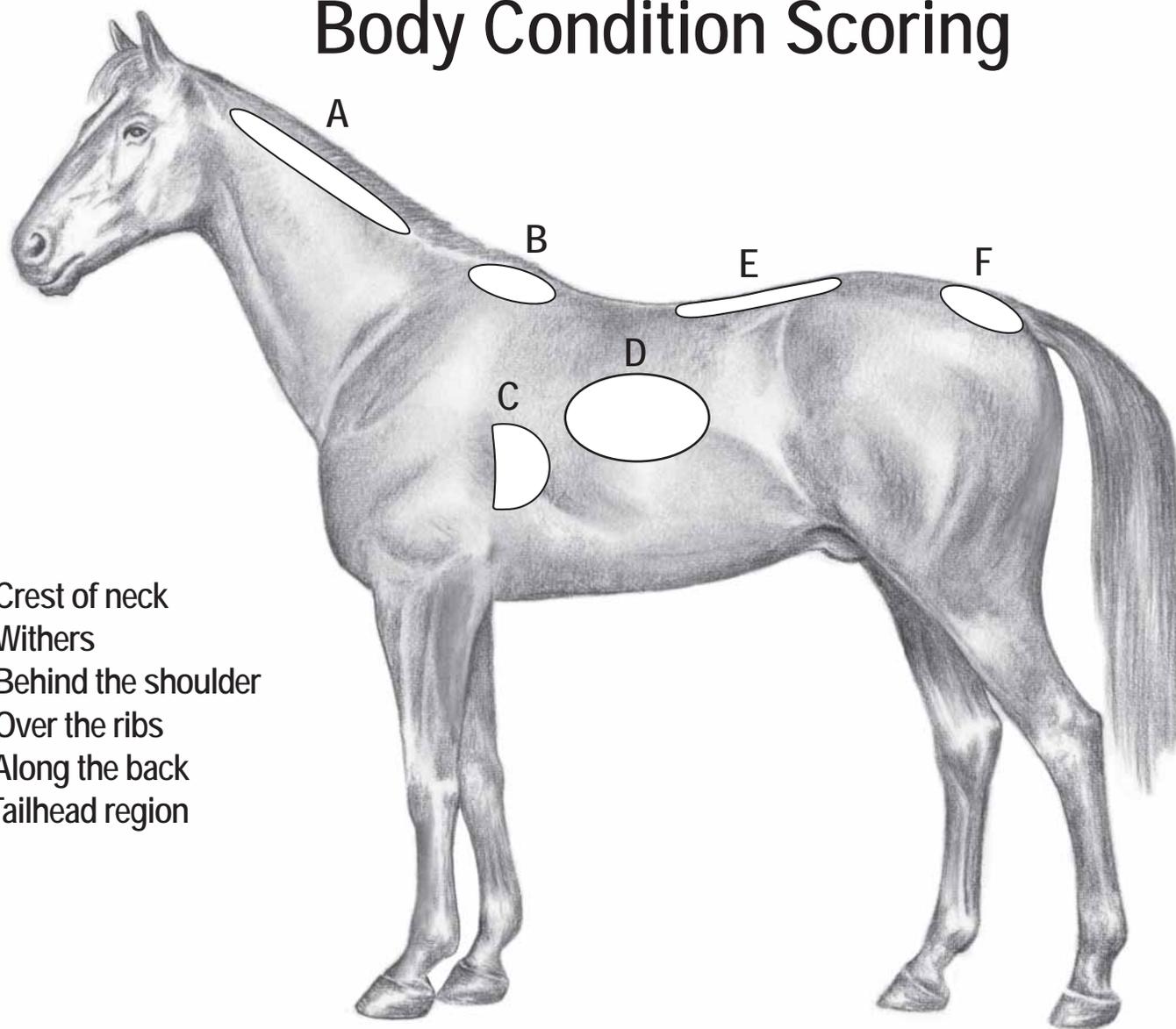




Body Condition Scoring



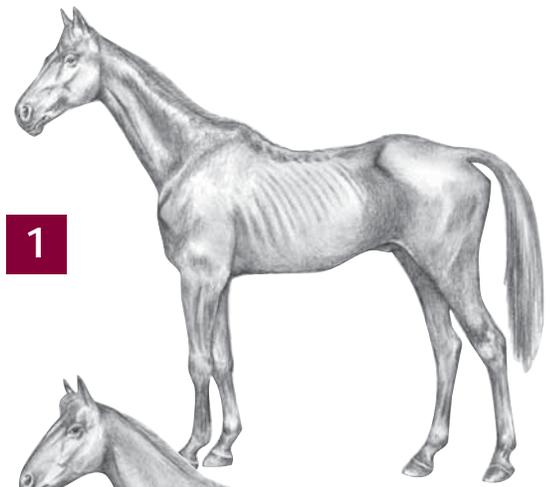
- A. Crest of neck
- B. Withers
- C. Behind the shoulder
- D. Over the ribs
- E. Along the back
- F. Tailhead region



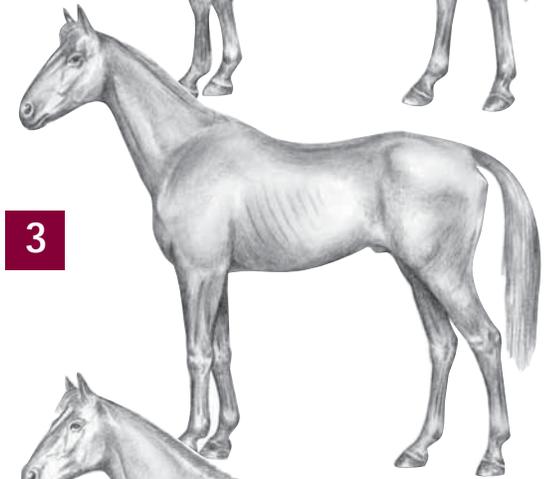
Description of Body Condition Scores (Scores 1-9)

1. **Poor:** Horse is extremely emaciated. Backbone, ribs, hipbones, and tailhead project prominently. Bone structure of the withers, shoulders, and neck are prominent. No fatty tissues can be felt.
2. **Very Thin:** Horse is emaciated. Slight fat covering over vertebrae. Backbone, ribs, tailhead, and hipbones are prominent. Withers, shoulders, and neck structures are discernible.
3. **Thin:** Fat built up about halfway on vertebrae. Slight fat layer can be felt over ribs, but ribs easily seen. The tailhead is prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be seen. The hipbones, withers, shoulders, and neck structures are faintly discernable.
4. **Moderately Thin:** Slight ridge along back. Faint outline of ribs can be seen. Fat can be felt around tailhead. Hip bones not obviously discernable. Withers, neck, and shoulders not obviously thin.
5. **Moderate:** Back is level. Ribs can be easily felt, but not seen. Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy. Withers are rounded and shoulders and neck blend smoothly into the body.
6. **Moderately Fleshy:** May have a slight crease down the back. Fat around the tailhead feels soft. Fat over the ribs feels spongy. Fat beginning to be deposited along the sides of the withers, behind the shoulders, and in the crest of the neck.
7. **Fleshy:** May have a crease down the back. Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable fat deposition over the ribs. Fat around tailhead is soft. Noticeable fat deposited along the withers, behind the shoulders, and in the crest of the neck.
8. **Fat:** Crease down the back is prominent. Ribs difficult to feel. Fat around tailhead prominent. Area along withers filled with fat. Area behind shoulders filled with fat. Prominent crest of neck. Fat deposited along the inner buttocks.
9. **Extremely Fat:** Obvious crease down back. Fat is in patches over rib area, with bulging fat over tailhead, withers, neck, and behind shoulders. Very prominent crest of neck. Fat along inner buttocks may rub together. Flank is filled in flush with the barrel of the body.

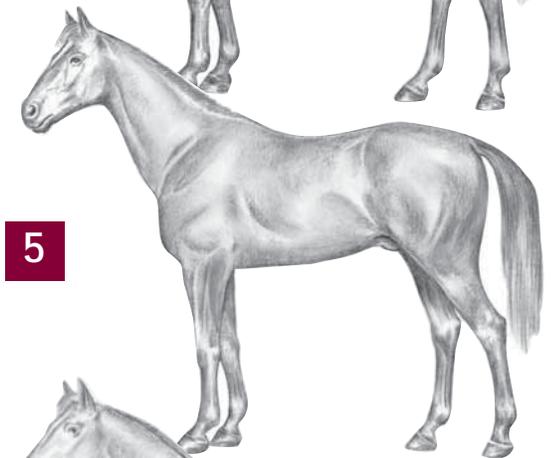
Adapted from Henneke *et al*, 1983



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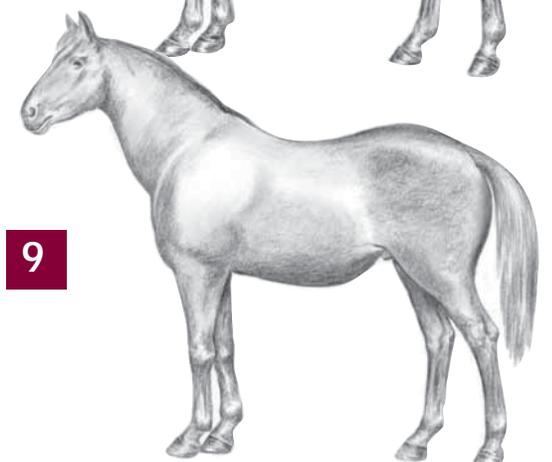
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