

Donkey Body Condition Score Chart

Ideal Donkey Condition: 3



- Neck flows into the spine without a dip at the withers
- Spinous processes can be felt with light pressure
- Topline muscle over spine
- Ribs can be felt with light pressure
- Good muscle development

How to Apply the Body Condition Score Chart

Running your hands over your donkey's body and paying attention to these key regions for fat deposits or muscle loss will help to identify your donkey's correct body condition score. Keep in mind that senior donkeys can be challenging to assess accurately due to loss of muscle mass with age. If a donkey has had a history of obesity followed by weight loss, a fallen crest or residual fat deposits are common. Please seek assistance from an equine veterinarian if there are any health concerns with your donkey.



Underweight

Within this condition donkeys are susceptible to disease and experience difficulty thermoregulating due to the lack of muscle mass and malnutrition. Changes to their diet should be gradual and a consultation with a veterinarian on parasite and disease protocols as well as a dental exam should be performed.



- 2
- Slight dip where the neck meets the spine
 - Spinous processes can be felt but not prominent
 - Ribs can be felt easily but not prominent
 - Pelvis felt with light pressure
 - Some muscle development



- 1
- All bones easily felt
 - Angular shoulder bones
 - Ribs visible
 - Pelvis felt easily and visible
 - Little to no muscle development

Overweight

Within this condition there is an increased risk of developing laminitis and metabolic disorders. A veterinarian health check should be performed and changes to the donkey's diet should be gradual. Access to pasture grass should be limited.



- 4
- Thick neck with a crest
 - Spinous processes felt with pressure
 - Ribs felt with firm pressure
 - Pelvis bone felt with firm pressure
 - Fat deposits visible



- 5
- Thick neck with fallen crest
 - Withers are rounded with fat
 - Difficult to feel spinous processes with firm pressure
 - Calcified fat deposits along ribs
 - Rounded hindquarters due to fat causing bulging over tail head