



Lesson Topic: Body Condition Scoring Activity

Objective of Lesson: Using the Henneke Body Condition Chart and video to learn how to recognize and score the Body Condition Score of a horse.

Equipment Needed:

- The video on YouTube showing the BCS of 5 different horses.
- Use the Body Condition Scoring Chart (BCS) for reference.
- USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Basics for Beginners D– Level (2nd Edition) pages 209-213 for reference.

Lesson Explanation:

- The BCS scale was developed to help determine the body condition of a horse based on a scale of 1-10.
- Learning the BCS chart will help you to learn the parts of the horse and what to look for in a healthy animal.
- Understand that good and poor nutrition will create a skinny or morbidly obese horse.
- By learning the BCS Scale will make it easier to measure an actual horses weight which will be helpful in determining their nutrition necessary to keep them healthy.

Lesson Procedure:

- Watch the video on the Pony Club YouTube channel. Score each horse after each horse is presented and then go on to the next horse and so on.
- The correct scoring will be shown at the end of the video. Compare your scores.
- Repeat if necessary to understand each step through this process.

Lesson Wrap up:

- Practice scoring your own horse and other horses when you can, it does take practice.
- Students will use this knowledge to make informed decisions in horse health and care.



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4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 4051

(859)254-7669 ~ www.ponyclub.org

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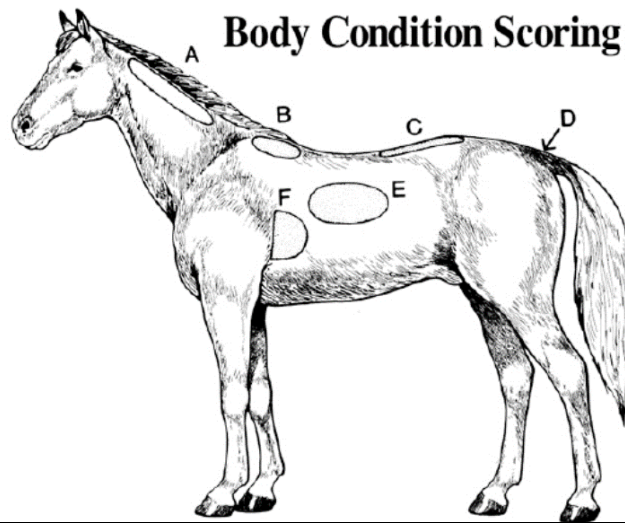
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Activity-Body Condition Scoring

Areas to assess

- A) Along the neck
- B) Along the withers
- C) Loins
- D) Tailhead
- E) Ribs
- F) Shoulder

Henneke Body Condition Chart



Condition	Neck	Withers	Shoulder	Ribs	Loin	Tailhead
1 Poor	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Ribs protruding prominently	Spinous processes projecting prominently	Tailhead, pin bones, and hook bones projecting prominently
2 Very Thin	Bone structure faintly discernable	Bone structure faintly discernable	Bone structure faintly discernable	Ribs prominent	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent	Tailhead prominent
3 Thin	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Shoulder accentuated	Slight fat over ribs. Ribs easily discernable.	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernable. Transverse processes cannot be felt	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
4 Moderately Thin	Neck not obviously thin.	Withers not obviously thin	Shoulder not obviously thin	Faint outline of ribs discernable	Negative crease (peaked appearance) along back	Prominence depends on conformation. Fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernable
5 Moderate (ideal weight)	Neck blends smoothly into body	Withers rounded over spinous processes	Shoulder blends smoothly into body	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but can be easily felt	Back is level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel soft
6 Moderately Fleshy	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat over ribs feels spongy	May have a slight positive crease (a groove) down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft
7 Fleshy	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	Fat deposited behind shoulder	Individual ribs can be felt with pressure, but noticeable fat filling between ribs	May have a positive crease down the back	Fat around tailhead is soft
8 Fat	Noticeable thickening of neck	Area along withers filled with fat	Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body	Difficult to feel ribs	Positive crease down the back	Fat around tailhead very soft
9 Extremely Fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Obvious crease down the back	Bulging fat around tailhead