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Body Condition Assessment

After Dr. G. Patronek, Tufts Care and Condition Scoring Scales, American Humane Association, 1998.

Body condition is determined by both looking at the animal and feeling the animal

- 5 Emaciated**
 - No palpable fat
 - Obvious loss of muscle mass
 - All bony prominences evident from a distance
 - Severe abdominal tuck and extreme hourglass shape

- 4 Very Underweight**
 - No palpable fat
 - Some loss of muscle mass
 - Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible
 - Prominent abdominal tuck. Hourglass shape to torso

- 3 Thin**
 - No palpable fat
 - Minimal loss of muscle mass
 - Ribs easily palpated (may be visible) Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible Pelvic bones becoming prominent
 - Obvious waist and abdominal tuck

- 2 Underweight/Lean**
 - Waist visible from above. Abdominal tuck evident
 - Ribs easily palpable with minimal subcutaneous fat
 - No muscle loss
 - May be normal for lean breeds such as sighthounds

- 1 Ideal**
 - Abdomen tucked slightly when viewed from the side
 - Waist visible from above, just behind the ribs
 - Ribs palpable without excess subcutaneous fat

