

**The Bergh Memorial  
Animal Hospital of the ASPCA**

424 E 92nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10128

(212) 876-7700

*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 (post mortem; no significant subcutaneous or body cavity fat stores)
- Obvious loss of muscle mass including; temporal muscles, supraspinatus, infraspinatus, epaxial, gluteal and leg muscles
- Prominence (visually and by palpation) of skeletal structures (i.e. ribs, vertebral spines, pelvic bones, spine of scapula and femur) due to loss of body fat and muscle
- Severe abdominal tuck and extreme hourglass shape

**4 Very Underweight**

- No palpable fat (post mortem; no significant subcutaneous or body cavity fat stores)
- Definite loss of muscle mass
- Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible and/or palpable due to loss of body fat and muscle
- Prominent abdominal tuck. Hourglass shape to torso

**3 Thin**

- No palpable fat (post mortem; no significant subcutaneous or body cavity fat stores)
- 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