



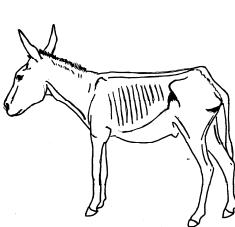
Body condition score of donkeys

Three main categories, thin, medium and fat are first defined:

thin - frame is obvious; fat - the frame is not as visible as the covering; medium - in between, neither one more obvious than the other.

Examine the donkey more closely - subdivide your main category into one of three and give it a score 1-3 thin; 4-6, medium; 7-9 fat.

Thin



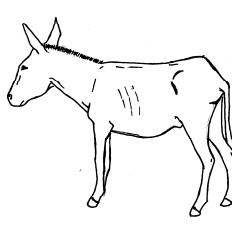
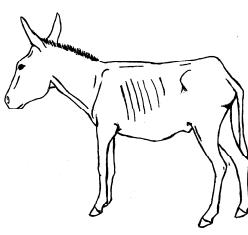
1 Very Thin

Markedly emaciated; bone structure easily seen; little muscle present; animal weak, lethargic.



2 Thin

Emaciated; individual spinous processes, ribs, hooks (tuber coxae), pins (tuber ischii), shoulder blades and spine sharply defined; some muscle development; neck thin; prominent withers and shoulders.

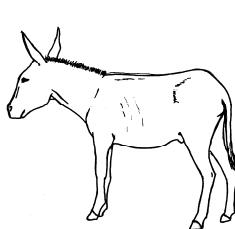


3 Less Thin

Vertebral column prominent and individual spinous processes can be felt; little fat, but superspinous muscle apparent over spinous processes; ribs, pins (tuber ischii) and hooks (tuber coxae) prominent; loin area and rump concave; little muscle or fat covering over withers and shoulders.



Medium



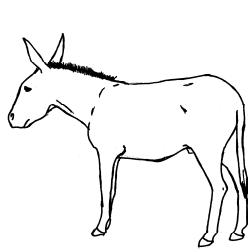
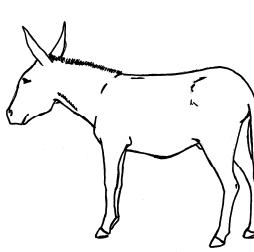
4 Less than moderate

Vertebral column visible; pins (tuber ischii) can be felt but not visible; hooks (tuber coxae) rounded but visible; rump flat not concave; ribs can be felt but not obvious; withers, shoulders and neck have some muscle and fat cover; shoulder blades less clearly defined.



5 Moderate

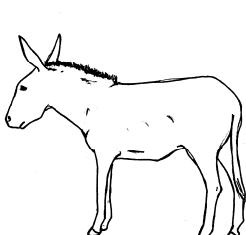
Superspinous muscles developed and readily apparent; vertebral column can be felt; hooks (tuber coxae) rounded; rump rounded, convex; pins (tuber ischii) not visible; some fat in shoulder region and at base of neck; can feel ribs, but not visible.



6 More than moderate

Cannot feel spinous processes easily; back becoming flat well covered; rump convex and well muscled; some fat can be felt on neck, base of neck and shoulder, neck filled into shoulder; hooks (tuber coxae) just visible.

Fat



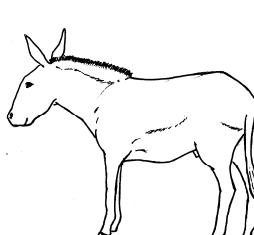
7 Less fat

Back flat; cannot feel spinous processes; hooks (tuber coxae) just visible; fat on neck and shoulder beginning to expand over ribs; flanks filling; neck thickening.



8 Fat

Animal appears well covered with body rounded with fat and bones not discernible; flanks filled; broad back.



9 Very fat (obese)

Bones buried in fat; back broad or flat, in some cases crease along the backbone; large accumulations of fat on neck, over shoulder and ribs; flank filled with fat.

