Check your dog’s body condition score

**TOO THIN**

1. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance
   - No discernible body fat
   - Obvious loss of muscle mass

2. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones easily visible
   - No palpable fat
   - Some bony prominences visible from a distance
   - Minimal loss of muscle mass

3. Ribs easily palpable and may be visible with no palpable fat
   - Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible, pelvic bones becoming prominent
   - Obvious waist and abdominal tuck

**IDEAL**

4. Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering
   - Waist easily noted when viewed from above
   - Abdominal tuck evident

5. Ribs palpable without excess fat covering
   - Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above
   - Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side

6. Ribs palpable with slight excess of fat covering
   - Waist is discernible when viewed from above but is not prominent
   - Abdominal tuck apparent

**OVERWEIGHT**

7. Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover
   - Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail
   - Waist absent or barely visible
   - Abdominal tuck may be absent

8. Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover or palpable only with significant pressure
   - Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail
   - Waist absent
   - No abdominal tuck
   - Obvious abdominal distension may be present

9. Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail
   - Waist and abdominal tuck absent
   - Fat deposits on neck and limbs
   - Obvious abdominal distension

For advice and information, please speak to a member of our staff

Adapted from Lallemme DP. Development and validation of a Body Condition Score system for dogs. Canine Practice 22:4, 1997. Developed in partnership with the University of Liverpool Weight Management Clinic.