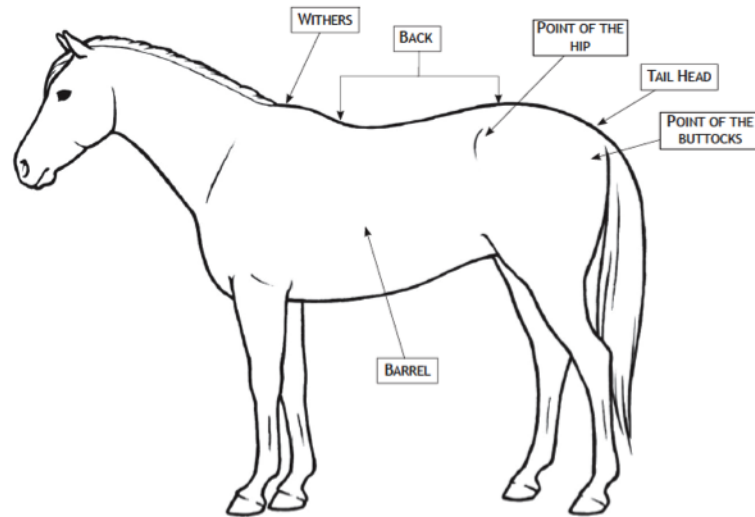




Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies

LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A HORSE¹



BCS 1

WHOLE BODY

- Poor condition
- Extremely emaciated
- No fat tissue felt

NECK

- Bone structure visible

WITHERS

- Bone structure easily visible

BACK

- Spinous processes project prominently

TAIL HEAD

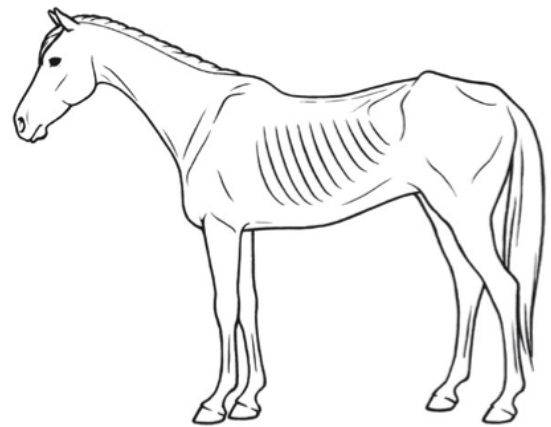
- Tail head, point of the buttocks and point of the hip project prominently

RIBS

- Project prominently

SHOULDER

- Bone structure easily noticeable



¹ Adapted from: What's the Score? Body Condition Scoring for Livestock CD-ROM CD 400/40-1 with permission of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. www.agriculture.alberta.ca Copies of the CD can be ordered on-line at: [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex9622](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex9622)



Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies (continued)

BCS 2

WHOLE BODY

- Very thin
- Emaciated

NECK

- Bone faintly discernible

WITHERS

- Bone structure faintly noticeable

BACK

- Spinous processes prominent
- Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes
- Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded

TAIL HEAD

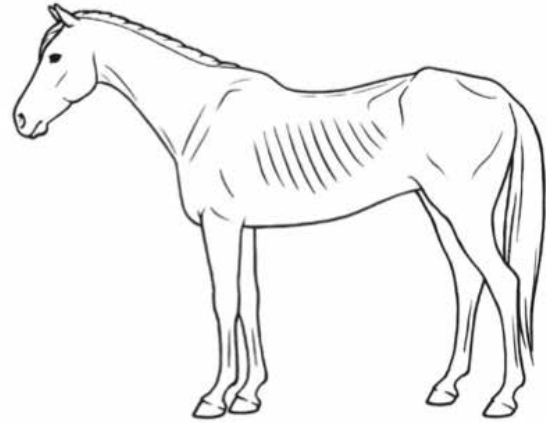
- Prominent

RIBS

- Prominent

SHOULDER

- Faintly discernible



BCS 3

WHOLE BODY

- Thin

NECK

- Accentuated

WITHERS

- Accentuated

BACK

- Fat build up halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible
- Can't feel transverse processes

TAIL HEAD

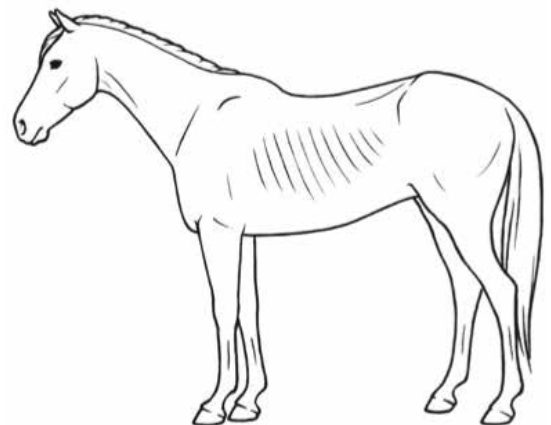
- Prominent but individual vertebrae can't be visually identified
- Point of the hip rounded, but easily discernible
- Point of the buttocks not distinguishable

RIBS

- Slight fat cover
- Individual ribs discernible

SHOULDER

- Accentuated





Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies (continued)

BCS 4

WHOLE BODY

- Moderately thin

NECK

- Not obviously thin

WITHERS

- Not obviously thin

BACK

- Negative crease along back

TAIL HEAD

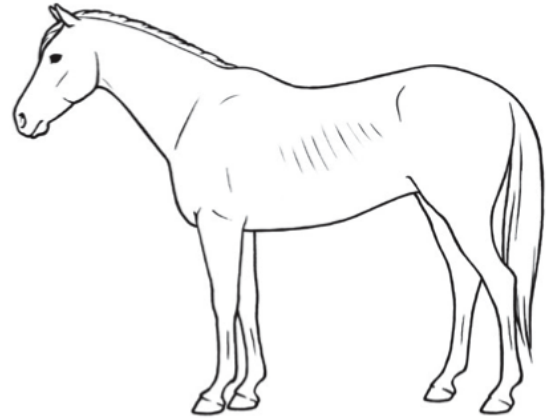
- Prominence depends on conformation
- Fat palpable
- Point of the hip not discernible

RIBS

- Faint outline discernible

SHOULDER

- Not obviously thin



BCS 5

WHOLE BODY

- Moderate condition

NECK

- Blends smoothly into body

WITHERS

- Rounded over spinous processes

BACK

- Back is level

TAIL HEAD

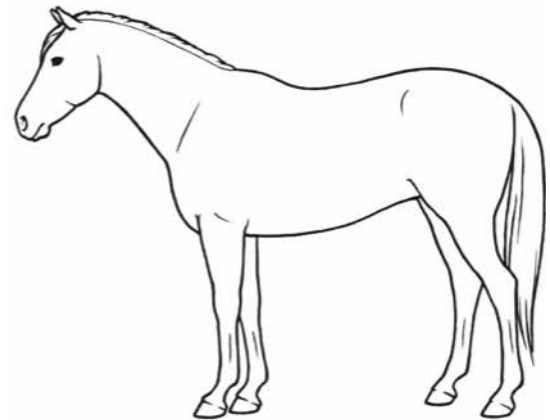
- Fat around tail head beginning to feel spongy

RIBS

- Individual ribs can be felt, but not visually distinguished

SHOULDER

- Blends smoothly into body





Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies (continued)

BCS 6

WHOLE BODY

- Moderately fleshy

NECK

- Fat beginning to be deposited

WITHERS

- Fat beginning to be deposited

BACK

- May have slight positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

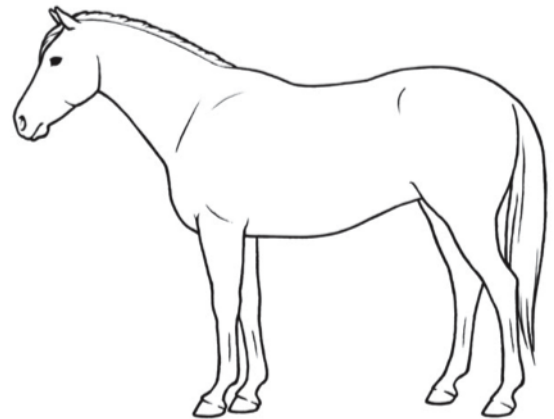
- Fat around tail head feels soft

RIBS

- Fat over ribs feels spongy

SHOULDER

- Fat beginning to be deposited
- Point-of-shoulder not discernible



BCS 7

WHOLE BODY

- Fleshy

NECK

- Fat deposited along neck

WITHERS

- Fat deposited along withers

BACK

- May have positive crease down back, behind shoulder

TAIL HEAD

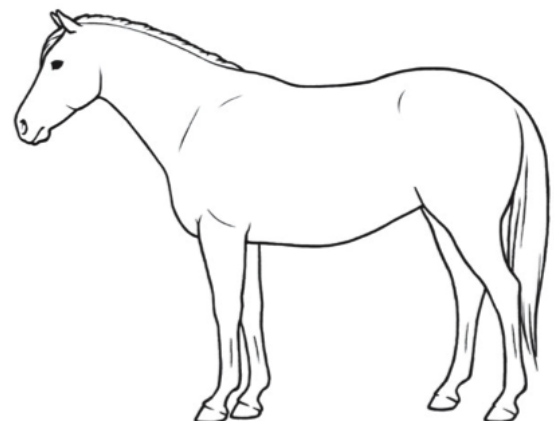
- Fat around tail head is soft

RIBS

- Individual ribs can be felt
- Noticeable fat fillings between ribs

SHOULDER

- Fat deposited behind shoulder





Body Condition Scoring - Horses and Ponies (continued)

BCS 8

WHOLE BODY

- Fat
- Fat deposited along inner buttocks

NECK

- Noticeable thickening of neck

WITHERS

- Area along withers filled with fat

BACK

- Positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

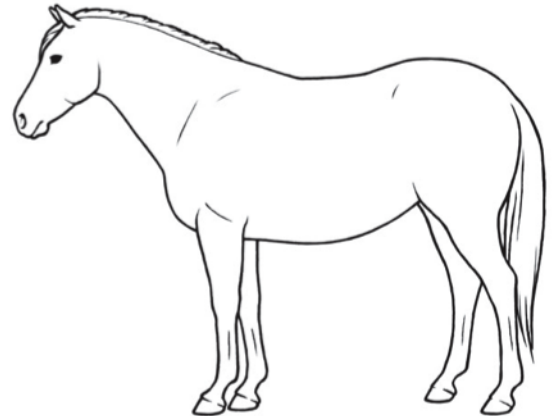
- Tail head fat very soft

RIBS

- Difficult to feel individual ribs

SHOULDER

- Area behind shoulder filled in, flush with body



BCS 9

WHOLE BODY

- Extremely fat
- Fat along inner buttocks may rub together
- Flank filled in flush

NECK

- Bulging fat

WITHERS

- Bulging fat

BACK

- Obvious positive crease down back

TAIL HEAD

- Building fat around tail head

RIBS

- Patchy fat appearing over ribs

SHOULDER

- Bulging fat

