

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

UNDERFED

1

Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wing of ilia easily palpated.

2

Shared characteristics of BCS 1 and 3.

3

Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.

4

Shared characteristics of BCS 3 and 5.

IDEAL

5

Well-proportioned; observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.

6

Shared characteristics of BCS 5 and 7.

OVERFED

7

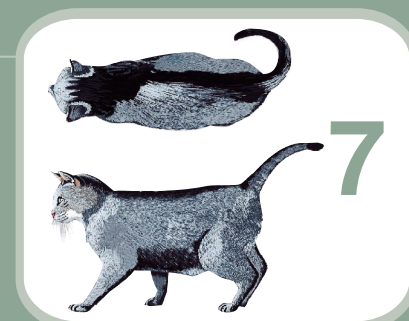
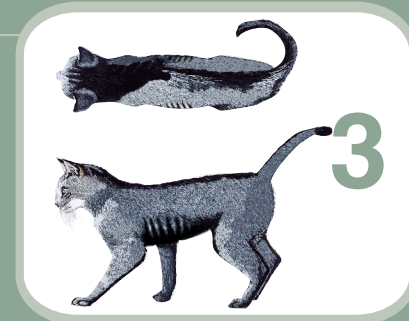
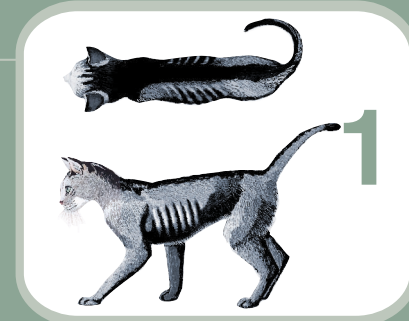
Ribs not easily palpated with moderate fat covering; waist poorly discernible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.

8

Shared characteristics of BCS 7 and 9.

9

Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.



The **BODY CONDITION SYSTEM** was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Laflamme DP. *Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Cats: A Clinical Tool.* *Feline Practice* 1997; 25:13-17

Laflamme DP, Hume E, Harrison J. *Evaluation of Zoometric Measures as an Assessment of Body Composition of Dogs and Cats.* *Compendium* 2001; 23(Suppl 9A):88

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT