

Doggie Body Density Scale

(Understanding your Dog's Body)

The health of your dog is very important, and although it is essential to consult a veterinarian on your dog's health, this scale will help you become aware of the signs that might signal whether your dog is underweight, at an ideal weight, or overweight. On a scale from 1-9, where does your pet rank?

Too Thin

1. The ribs, vertebrae, pelvic bones, and other bony areas are prominent from a distance. There is an obvious loss of muscle mass and no visible body fat.
2. Ribs, vertebrae and pelvic bones are easily visible with no noticeable fat. There is a minimal loss of muscle mass and no visible body fat.
3. Ribs are obvious with no noticeable fat, while the vertebrae and pelvic bones are starting to become more noticeable. The dog has a clear waist.



Ideal

4. The ribs are noticeable with minimal fat covering and the abdomen sinks in. A waist is noticed from above.
5. Ribs are evident and there is no excess fat covering them. A waist is noticeable from above, and the abdomen might sink in when viewed closely.

Too Heavy

6. The ribs start to become less prominent, with evidence of excess fat. The waist might be noticed from above, but only when viewed closely.
7. The ribs are less prominent with clear evidence of excess fat cover and fat deposits start to become apparent in the lower back and tail areas. Waist is absent from all viewpoints, however the abdomen might slightly sink in still.
8. Although the ribs are not visible, they might be felt under significant pressure. There are clear fat deposits over the spine and base of the tail. The waist is gone and there might be abdominal bloating.
9. There are visible fat deposits over the thorax, spine, neck, limbs, and base of the tail. The waist is absent and the abdomen is clearly bloated.

