

The Horse Trust
Advancing Excellence
in Equine Care



Healthiest Body Condition Awards

Information for Show Organisers



This initiative was developed and funded by The Horse Trust and delivered in partnership with the University of Liverpool. Our goal is to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy body condition in Showing. We encourage owners, riders and producers to recognise the health and welfare benefits of maintaining a healthy body condition, and to reward those who have achieved this in their showing class.

Rewarding Healthy Body Condition in Showing



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

The WeighToWin. The Details...

Equine obesity is one of the highest ranking equine health risks. We are working with many equine welfare and showing societies to come up with practical solutions to enable human behaviour around body condition to be changed for the better. People get very upset by seeing underweight horses, but in reality, far more horses and ponies are obese. This is very worrying for vets who are finding that they have to frequently treat serious, and avoidable, health conditions such as EMS and laminitis.

Perceptions of what is a healthy weight have become skewed towards the higher body condition scores. We would like to reset this balance with your help.

Our approach

The Horse Trust's Healthiest Body Condition Awards are intended to be non-confrontational, providing access to advice if required and encouragement for owners, riders and producers.

How does it work?

With your direction, some showing classes are chosen to host the awards and either your on-site Vet, or one we supply for you, will carry out body condition scoring (BCS) on all the horses in each class. A gorgeous green and gold rosette is awarded to whoever has the healthiest BCS.

Although we do not have funding for a vet, we usually have the support of a local equine vet practice as they are very keen to tackle obesity and are aware of our Awards. Often a suitably qualified person (SQP) from a vet practice will be ideal - we will keep you informed when organising, and there are no fees for yourselves.

Within a showing class, the vet will assess the BCS of all the exhibitors and will award the healthiest horse or pony in the class in recognition of their achievement. Assessing is concurrent, but independent, of the normal judging of the class. Judges should be briefed, by the show organiser, beforehand.

Consistently, our winners are delighted with their rosette and will share their success with The Horse Trust and your show on social media platforms thus spreading the WeighToWin message.

Answers to FAQs

- WeighToWin does not cost the Show any fees.
- The Horse Trust will arrange for a vet, or an SQP, to BCS if you don't already have one attending.
- Rosettes are posted to the show organiser with score-sheets for the vets, and Commentary Notes too.
- We endeavour to provide for you with favourable publicity before and after your show.

Data collection

The BCS score-sheets are to be sent (or use WhatsApp) to: **Rachael Holdsworth 07850 017587**

The data that is collected is shared with The Horse Trust and the University of Liverpool which is very valuable to their research. We also like to share the winners' success stories, so our score-sheets ask for some contact information and we encourage the winners to scan the QR code on the back of their rosette.

Any on the day queries? Contact Rachael Holdsworth 07850 017587

Thank you!

#TheWeighToWin

