

The
Horse Trust

Advancing Excellence
in Equine Care



Healthiest Body

Condition Awards

Information for Vets



This initiative was developed and funded by The Horse Trust and delivered in partnership with the University of Liverpool to tackle equine obesity. Our goal is to raise awareness of healthy weight in showing, to encourage owners, riders and producers to recognise the health and welfare benefits of maintaining a healthy body condition score (BCS), and to award those who have achieved this.

Rewarding Healthy Equine Condition in Showing



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Vet Briefing

The Horse Trust is working with BEVA, and a number of equine charities, as well as the National Equine Forum to come up with practical solutions to enable human behaviour around equine obesity to be changed for the better. We aim to achieve this in a supportive, non-challenging way and we are grateful to you for playing an important part in this evolving journey.

Our approach

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

How does it work?

We would like you to evaluate the BCS of all the entrants in the class concurrently, but independently, from the usual judging. If the opportunity arises, please do confer with the judge to help them to understand why this programme is so important. For the healthiest exhibit in the class, you will award one of our gorgeous green and gold rosettes.

Data collection

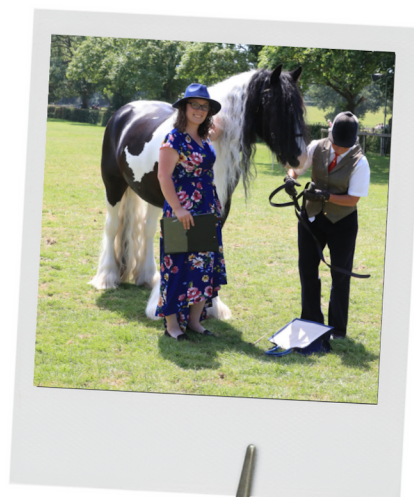
A BCS score-sheet will be provided and the data that you collect is shared with The Horse Trust and the University of Liverpool which is very valuable to their research.

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.

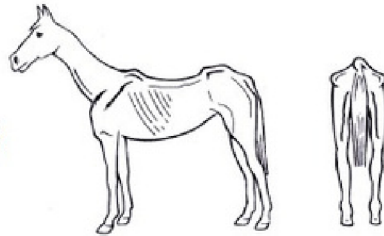
Afterwards please send, or WhatsApp, the completed score-sheets to Rachael Holdsworth 07850 017587 as soon as possible after the show.

Any on the day queries? Also call **Rachael Holdsworth 07850 017587**

Please see example BCS chart overleaf for your reference/use.



0 VERY POOR



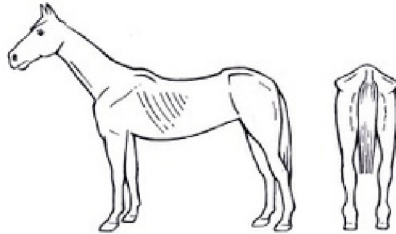
0 VERY POOR

Pelvis
Angular, skin tight
Very sunken rump

Back and Ribs
Deep cavity under tail
Skin tight over ribs
Very prominent and sharp backbone

Neck
Marked ewe neck
Narrow and slack at base

1 POOR



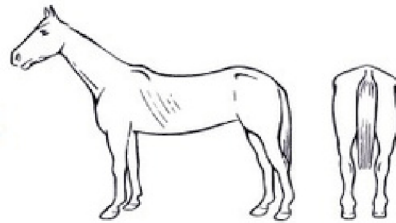
1 POOR

Pelvis
Prominent pelvis and croup
Sunken rump but skin supple
Deep cavity under tail

Back and Ribs
Ribs easily visible
Prominent backbone with sunken skin on either side

Neck
Ewe neck and slack at base

2 MODERATE



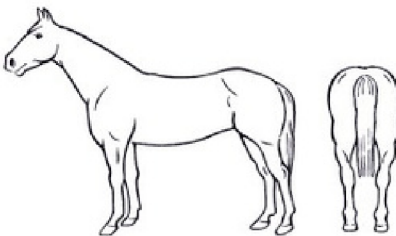
2 MODERATE

Pelvis
Rump flat either side of backbone
Croup well defined some fat
Slight cavity under tail

Back and Ribs
Ribs just visible
Backbone covered but spine can be felt

Neck
Narrow but firm

3 GOOD



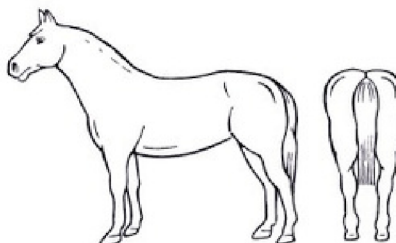
3 GOOD

Pelvis
Covered by fat and rounded
No gutter
Pelvis easily felt

Back and Ribs
Ribs just covered and easily felt
No gutter along back
Backbone well covered but spine can be felt

Neck
No crest (except for stallions)
Firm neck

4 FAT



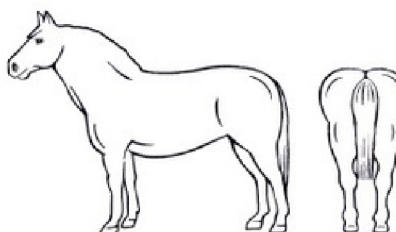
4 FAT

Pelvis
Gutter to root of tail
Pelvis covered by fat
Need firm pressure to feel

Back and Ribs
Ribs well covered need pressure to feel

Neck
Slight crest
Wide and firm

5 VERY FAT



5 VERY FAT

Pelvis
Deep gutter to root of tail. Skin distended
Pelvis buried, cannot be felt

Back and Ribs
Ribs buried, cannot be felt
Deep gutter along back
Back broad and flat

Neck
Marked crest very wide and firm
Fold of fat