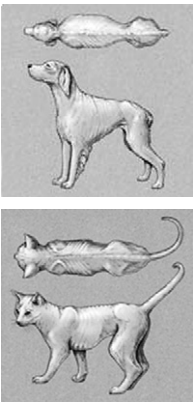
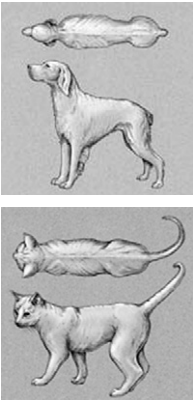
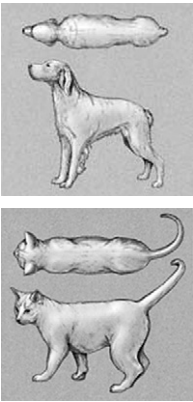
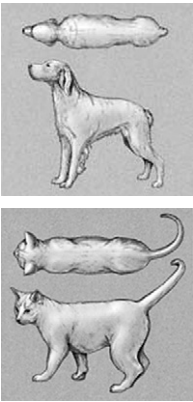
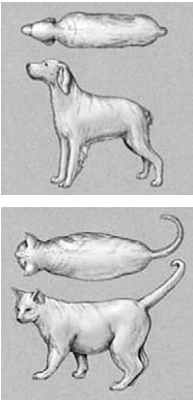
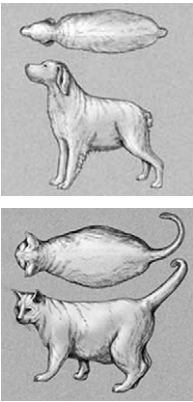


Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Systems

5 Point	9 Point	Description	
1/5	1/9	Dogs: Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass. Cats: Ribs visible on short-haired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia obvious and easily palpable.	
1.5/5	2/9	Dogs: Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass. Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 1 and 3.	
2/5	3/9	Dogs: Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist. Cats: Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.	
2.5/5	4/9	Dogs: Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident. Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 3 and 5.	
3/5	5/9	Dogs: Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed. Cats: Well proportioned; waist observed behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.	

5 Point	9 Point	Description	
3.5/5	6/9	Dogs: Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent. Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 5 and 7.	
4/5	7/9	Dogs: Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present. Cats: Ribs not easily palpable with moderate fat covering; waist poorly distensible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.	
4.5/5	8/9	Dogs: Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present. Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 7 and 9.	
5/5	9/9	Dogs: Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention. Cats: 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 pad.	