



DONKEY BODY CONDITION SCORE CHART

Our chart for scoring a donkeys body condition

 7 November 2024 [Read on The Donkey Sanctuary website](#)

Accurate body condition scoring is a hands-on process for feeling the amount of muscle and fat that are covering the donkey's bones. Careful assessment of all five areas of the donkey should be made and combined, to give an overall score.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SCORING

Using the chart as a guide, feel the coverage over the bones in five specific areas listed below:

- Neck and shoulders
- Withers
- Ribs and belly
- Back and loins
- Hindquarters

Fat deposits may be unevenly distributed especially over the neck and hindquarters. Some resistant fat deposits may be retained in the event of weight loss or may calcify (harden).

When deciding on the correct course of action following condition scoring, you might have to take into consideration the age of the donkey and any veterinary conditions they have. Aged donkeys can be hard to condition score due to lack of muscle bulk and tone giving thin appearance dorsally with dropped belly ventrally, while overall condition may be reasonable. If in doubt, get advice from your vet.

DOWNLOAD THE CHART

[Donkey Body Condition Score Chart 71.53 KB PDF](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Our skilled and experienced team of welfare advisers are on hand to give advice and appropriate support during office hours. For feeding and nutrition advice [contact our nutrition team](#) or telephone 01395 578222 and ask to be put through to the welfare department.