

PUPPY

body condition scoring system



2. Very Thin



Ribs, vertebrae and pelvic bones are visible. Other bony prominences are evident when the pup is handled. There will be no overlying fat. The ribs are easily felt without applying pressure. There is very little muscle development. In puppies of over 6 months, there is an obvious abdominal tuck. This may not, however, be evident in puppies of less than 6 months.



4. Ideal for puppies of less than 10 months of age



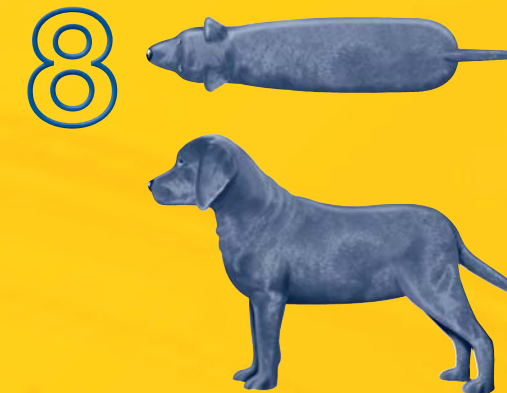
The ribs and pelvic bones can easily be felt when applying light pressure. Other bony prominences can be felt. There will be minimal overlying fat. The waist indentation can easily be seen when observed from above although there may not be a visible abdominal tuck in puppies of less than 6 months.



6. Overweight



The ribs and pelvic bones can be felt when applying pressure but with an excess of fat covering them. Other bony prominences can still be felt but with a moderate covering of fat. In puppies of over 6 months the waist indentation can be felt but is not prominent and an abdominal tuck is not present.



8. Obese



The ribs and pelvic bones can only be felt when applying moderate pressure. Other bony prominences are not felt. There will be a heavy layer of fat over body. The waist indentation is absent and there is no abdominal tuck.

Please note; this scoring protocol applies to puppies up to the age of 10 months and is appropriate to all breeds used as Guide Dogs.

1. Emaciated



Ribs, vertebrae and pelvic bones are visible from a distance. Other bony prominences are also visible. There is no overlying fat. The ribs are easily felt without applying pressure. There is no muscle development. In puppies of over 6 months, there is a severe abdominal tuck. This may not, however, be evident in puppies of less than 6 months.

3. Thin/Underweight



The top of the vertebrae are visible and the ribs may also be seen. Other bony prominences are easily felt. There will be minimal overlying fat. The ribs are easily felt applying light pressure. When smoothing the coat, the waist indentation is pronounced. In puppies of over 6 months, there is an abdominal tuck. This may not, however, be evident in puppies of less than 6 months.

5. Rounded



The ribs and pelvic bones can be felt when applying light pressure. Other bony prominences can be felt but with some overlying fat. The waist indentation can be felt when smoothing the coat flat along the sides of the dog although there may not be a visible abdominal tuck in puppies of less than 6 months.

7. Heavily Overweight



The ribs and pelvic bones can be felt with difficulty when applying pressure and there is a general covering of fat over body. Other bony prominences can be felt when apply moderate pressure. In puppies of over 6 months the waist indentation may not be easily identified and an abdominal tuck is not present.

9. Grossly Obese



The ribs and pelvic bones are difficult to feel under a thick fat cover. Other bony prominences are not felt. Fat deposits are developing over the lumbar region and starting to appear around the neck and chest region. The waist indentation is absent and there may be some distension of the abdomen. There is no abdominal tuck. The back is markedly broadened when viewed from above.