

# Purina body condition system



chart and  
information  
courtesy of  
Ralston Purina

How skinny is "pretty skinny"? How heavy is "not as thin as he should be"? The Purina body condition system provides a uniform way to describe a pet's weight, from "emaciated" to "grossly obese"

1. EMACIATED  
Ribs visible on shorthaired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily palpated.
2. VERY THIN  
Between 1 and 3
3. THIN  
Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs minimal abdominal fat.
4. UNDERWEIGHT  
Between 3 and 5.
5. IDEAL  
Well proportioned. Observe waist behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.
6. OVERWEIGHT  
Between 5 and 7.
7. HEAVY  
Ribs not easily palpated, with moderate fat covering; waist barely visible; rounded abdomen, moderate abdominal fat pad
8. OBESE  
Between 7 and 9.
9. GROSSLY OBESE  
Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distension of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat deposits.