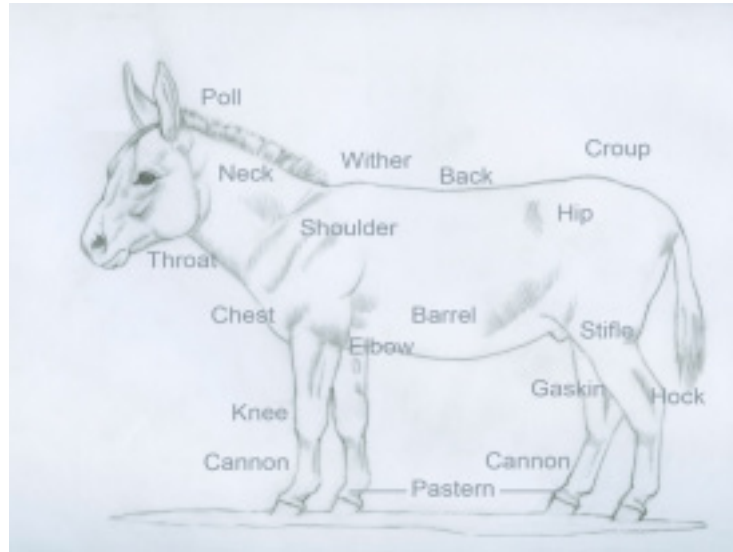


Body Condition Scoring Chart - Donkeys and Mules

LABELLED ILLUSTRATION OF A DONKEY¹



BCS 1

NECK AND SHOULDERS

- Neck thin, all bones easily felt
- Neck meets shoulder abruptly, shoulder bones easily felt, angular

WITHERS

- Dorsal spine of withers prominent and easily felt

RIBS AND BELLY

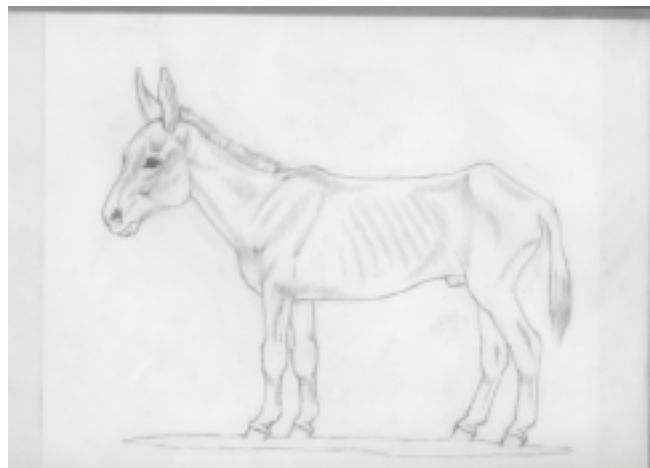
- Ribs can be seen from a distance and felt with ease
- Belly tucked up

BACK AND LOINS

- Backbone prominent, can feel dorsal and transverse processes easily

HINDQUARTERS

- Hip bones visible and felt easily (hock and pin bones)
- Little muscle cover
- May be cavity under tail



¹ All images developed by Michelle Grant. Text for the body condition scoring of donkeys developed by The Donkey Sanctuary.

BCS 2

NECK AND SHOULDERS

- Some muscle development overlying bones
- Slight step where neck meets shoulders

WITHERS

- Some cover over dorsal withers
- Spinous processes felt but not prominent

RIBS AND BELLY

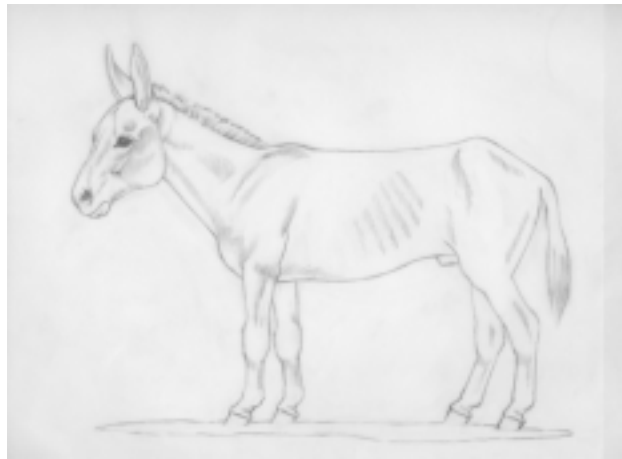
- Ribs not visible but can be felt with ease

BACK AND LOINS

- Dorsal and transverse processes felt with light pressure
- Poor muscle development either side midline

HINDQUARTERS

- Poor muscle cover on hindquarters, hip bones felt with ease



BCS 3

NECK AND SHOULDERS

- Good muscle development, bones felt under light cover of muscle/fat
- Neck flows smoothly into shoulder, which is rounded

WITHERS

- Good cover of muscle/fat over dorsal spinous processes, withers flow smooth into back

RIBS AND BELLY

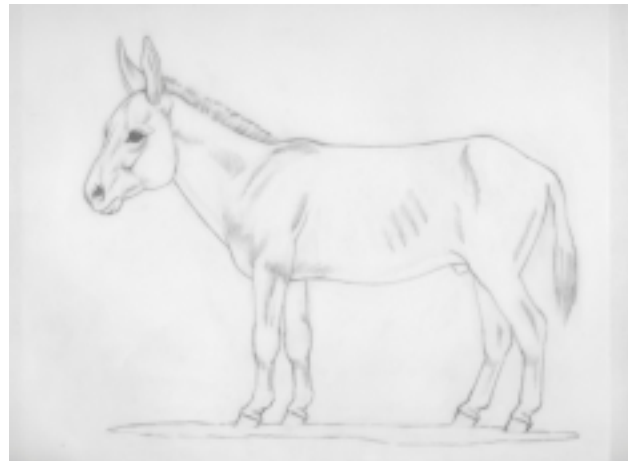
- Ribs just covered by light layer of fat/muscle, ribs can be felt with light pressure
- Belly firm with good muscle tone and flattish outline

BACK AND LOINS

- Cannot feel individual spinous or transverse processes
- Muscle development either side of midline is good

HINDQUARTERS

- Good muscle cover in hindquarters, hip bones rounded in appearance, can be felt with light pressure



BCS 4

NECK AND SHOULDERS

- Neck thick, crest hard shoulder covered in even fat layer

WITHERS

- Withers broad bones felt with firm pressure

RIBS AND BELLY

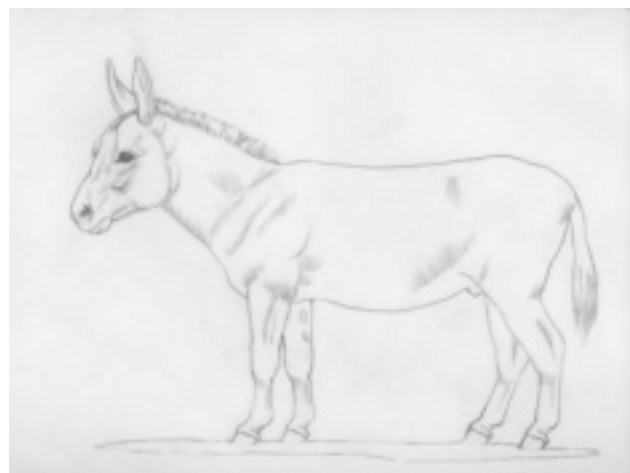
- Ribs dorsally only felt with firm pressure, ventral ribs may be felt more easily
- Overdeveloped belly

BACK AND LOINS

- Can only feel dorsal and transverse processes with firm pressure
- Slight crease along midline

HINDQUARTERS

- Hindquarters rounded, bones felt only with firm pressure
- Fat deposits evenly placed



NECK AND SHOULDERS

- Neck thick, crest bulging with fat and may fall to one side
- Shoulder rounded and bulging with fat

WITHERS

- Withers broad, unable to feel bones

RIBS AND BELLY

- Large, often uneven fat deposits covering dorsal and possible ventral aspect of ribs
- Ribs not palpable
- Belly pendulous in depth and width

BACK AND LOINS

- Back broad, unable to feel spinous or transverse processes
- Deep crease along midline bulging fat either side

HINDQUARTERS

- Cannot feel hip bones, fat may overhang either side of tail head, fat often uneven and bulging.

