

Body Condition Score

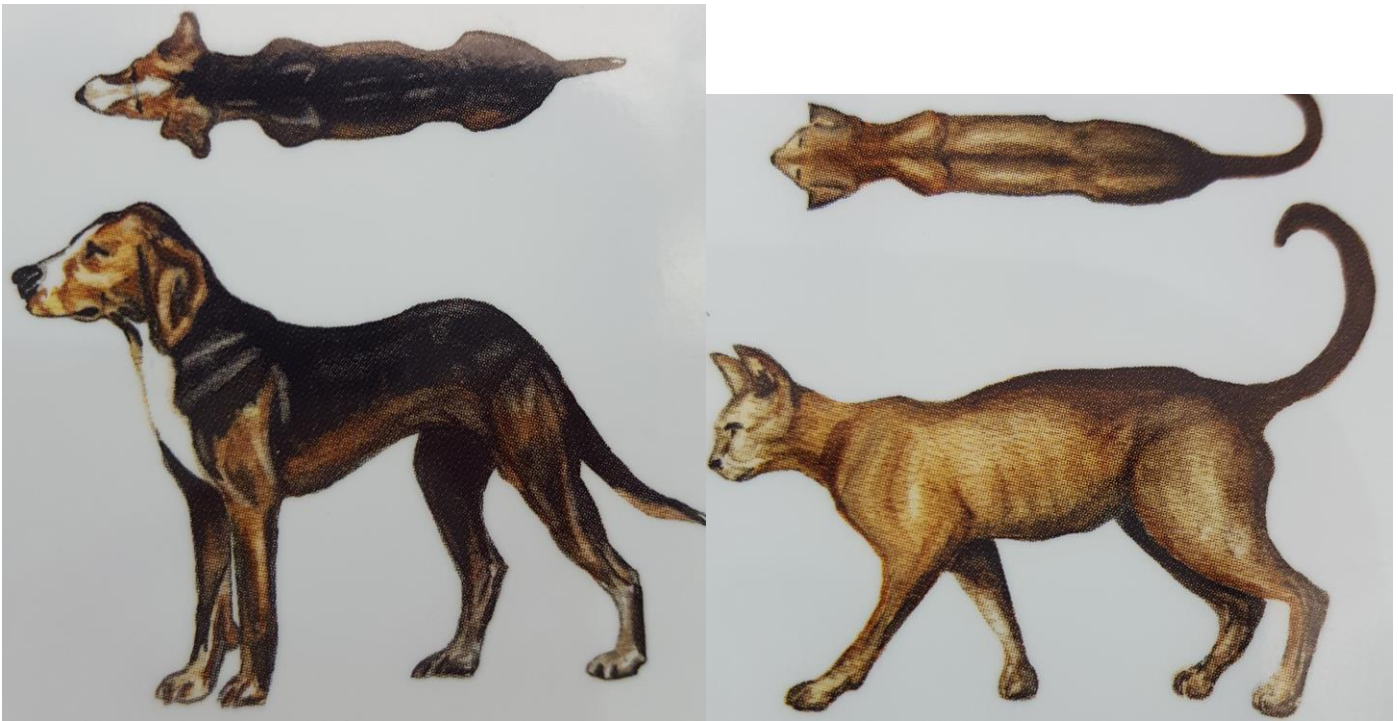
By: Katrina Handley; May 9, 2016

How large is too large? How small is too small? Many people want to know how much their pet should weigh to be healthy. The problem is that like people every animal will weigh different depending on their body size. The way animal's weight is gauged is by using a Body Condition Score (BCS). The scale can range from 1-5 or 1-10. For this article we will be using the 1-5 scale.



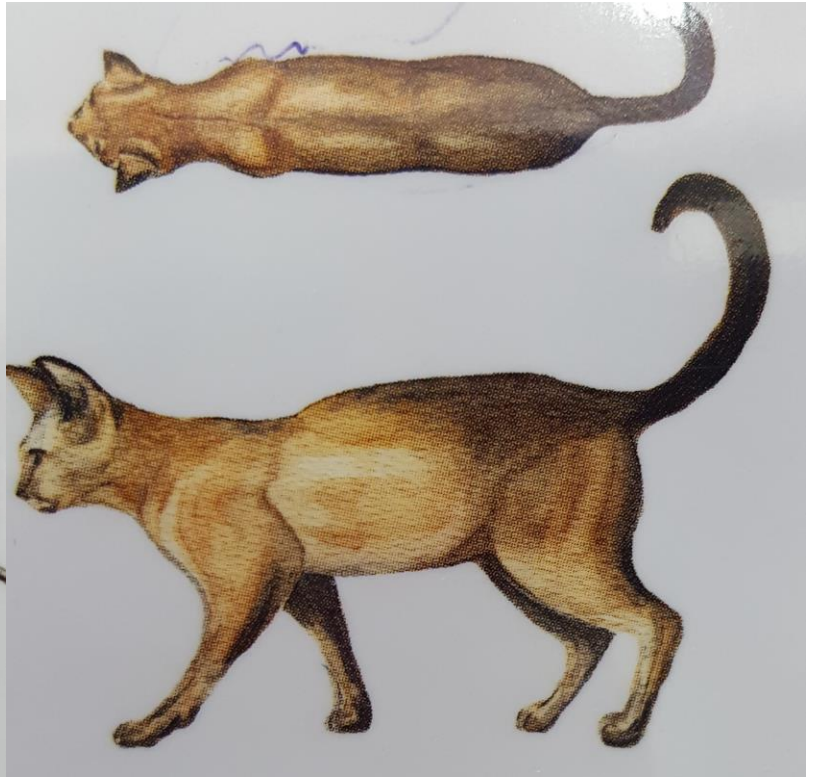
1: Emaciated

This means that there is no body fat, the animal is severely underweight and indicates a serious health concern.



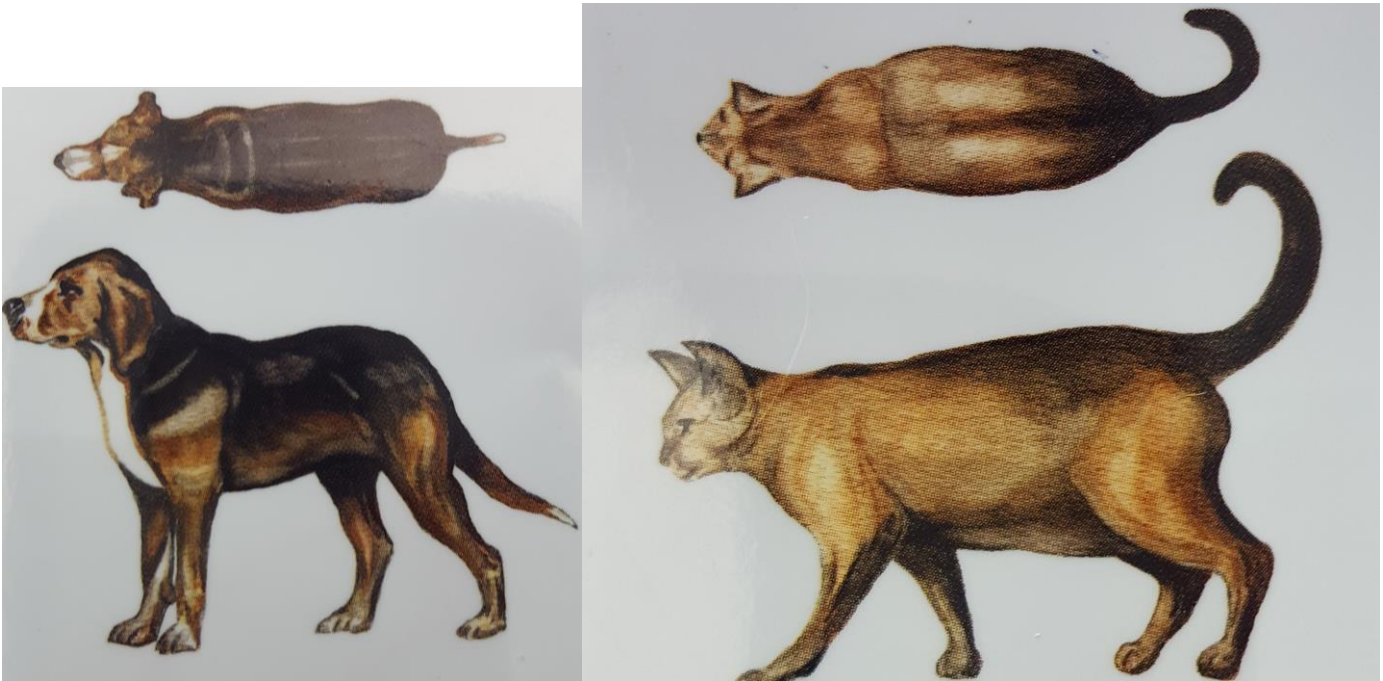
2: Underweight

This means less than a normal level of body fat. This may be related to a medical condition or nutritional imbalance.



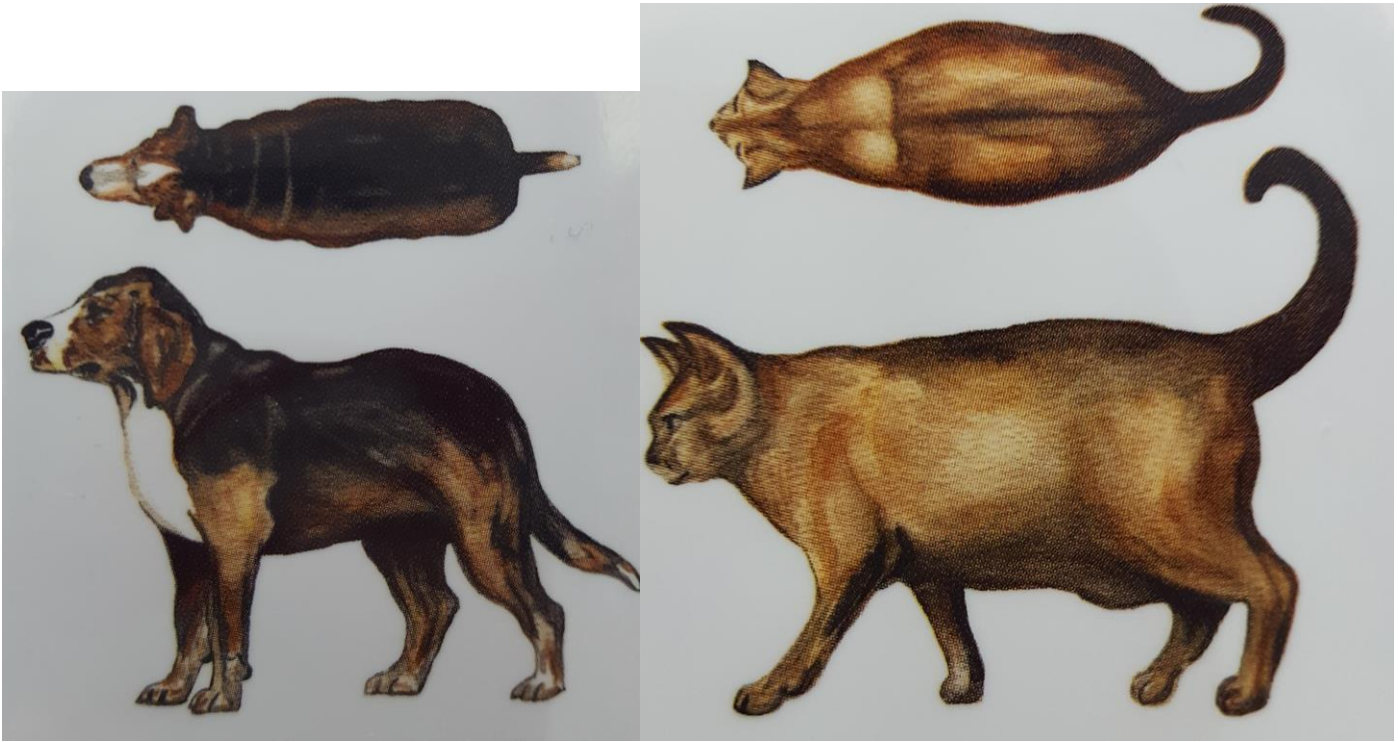
3: Ideal

This means your pet has an ideal level of body fat. This is a perfect score and should be the goal weight for your pet.



4: Overweight

When your pet has an excess level of body fat (over 15% higher). This is when a weight loss program should be started as well as blood work on older animals to check for Hypothyroid.



5: Obese

At over 30% over the ideal weight your pets are considered Obese. When your pet hits this mark they are at a higher risk for many health concerns such as Diabetes, Joint problems, Kidney and Liver issues and more. Blood work should be done to confirm that the animal is healthy before beginning a weight loss program.