



GIVE MORE
DOGS
MORE DAYS OF
PLAY

WEIGHT

Weight control for dogs with osteoarthritis:

- Carrying excess weight puts extra strain on the joints and can make osteoarthritis worse
- It is recommended that you keep a diary of your dogs weight and diet
- It is important to get the rest of your family involved because if your dog is on a diet it is vital it is not fed fattening treats
- Please use the Body Condition System chart overleaf, to set your dog's target and to monitor their progress



BODY CONDITION SYSTEM*



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TOO THIN

IDEAL

TOO HEAVY

1

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernable body fat. Obvious loss of musculomass.



2

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of musculomass.



3

Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.



4

Rib easily palpable with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.



5

Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.



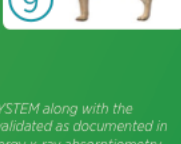
6

Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernable viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.



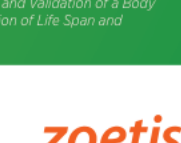
7

Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.



8

Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.



9

Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.

*The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center. The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM along with the BODY CONDITION SCORE chart is owned by Nestlé Purina Petcare. The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM has been validated as documented in the following publications: Mawby D, Bartges JW, Moyers T, et al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A):70 Laflamme DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997;22:10-15 Kealy, et al. Effects of Diet Restriction of Life Span and Age-related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320.

