

Assessing Your Pets Ideal Weight

Both obesity and being extremely underweight can cause numerous pet related health problems. Below are basic guidelines for pet owner to determine whether their pet cat or dog is of proper weight.

Very Thin: Ribs - Easily felt and seen with no fat cover. Tail Base - Bones are raised with no fat between the skin and bone. Side View - Severe abdominal tuck. Overhead View - Accentuated hourglass shape.

Underweight: Ribs - Easily felt with little fat cover. Tail Base - Bones are raised with minimal fat between the skin and bones. Side View - Prominent abdominal tuck. Overhead View: Marked hourglass shape.

Ideal: Ribs: Ribs - The ability to feel each rib with slight fat cover. Tail Base - Smooth contour but bones can be felt under a thin layer of fat. Side View - Abdominal tuck present. Overhead View - Well proportioned waist.

Overweight: Ribs - Difficult to feel with moderate fat cover. Tail Base - Some thickening but bones can be felt under a moderate fat layer. Side View - No abdominal tuck. Overhead View - Back is slightly broadened, no waist.

Obese: Ribs - Difficult or not able to feel ribs under thick fat layer. Tail Base - Thickened and difficult to feel bones beneath prominent fat layer. Side View - Fat hangs from the abdomen, widening of the abdomen. Overhead View - Markedly broadened.