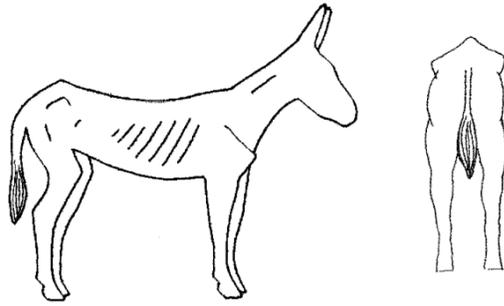
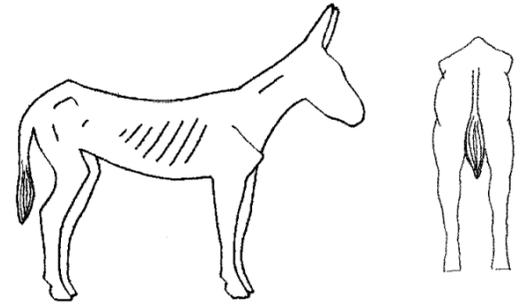


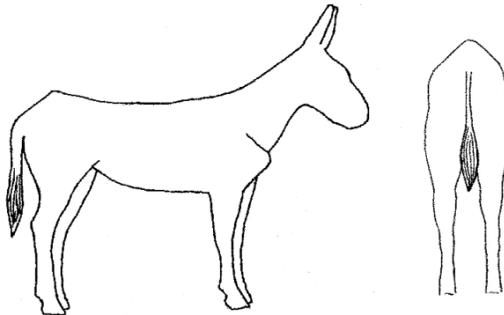
1. POOR



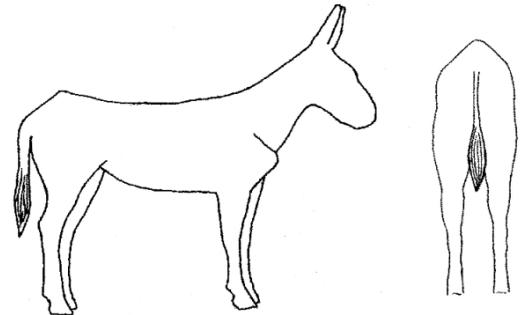
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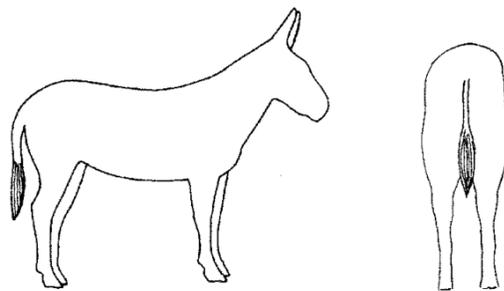
2. MODERATE



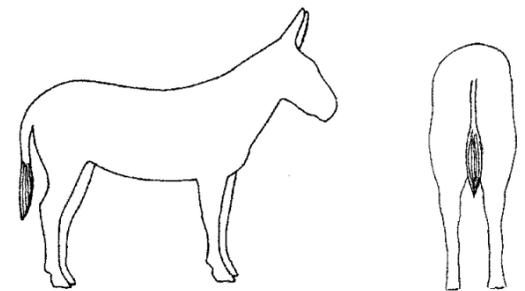
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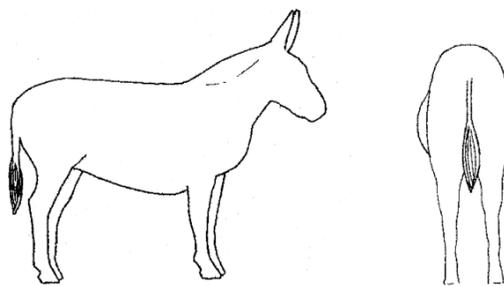
3. IDEAL



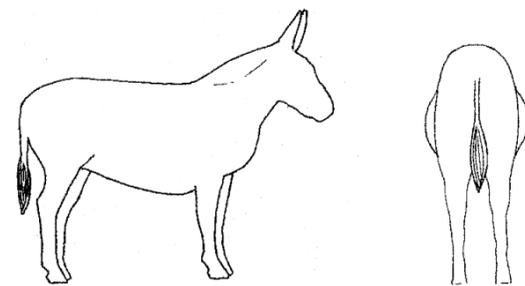
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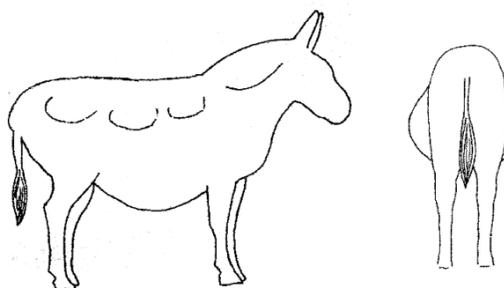
4. FAT



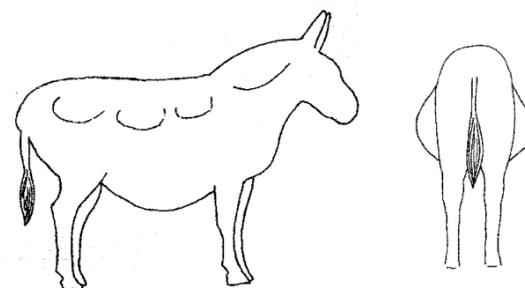
4. FAT



5. OBESE



5. OBESE



5. OBESE

Neck & 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 & Belly

Large, often uneven fat deposits covering ribs, more at the spine than near the belly. Ribs can't be felt. Belly pendulous in depth and width.

Back & Loins

Back broad, unable to feel the bony parts of the spine. 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.

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4. FAT

Neck & Shoulders

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

Withers

Withers broad, bones felt with firm pressure.

Ribs & Belly

Closest to the spine ribs only felt with firm pressure. May be felt more easily towards the underbelly. Belly overdeveloped.

Back & Loins

Can only feel bony parts of the spine with firm pressure. Slight crease along midline.

Hindquarters

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

3. IDEAL

Neck & 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 withers which flow smoothly into back.

Ribs & 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 & Loins

Cannot feel bony parts of the spine. 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.

2. MODERATE

Neck & Shoulders

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

Withers

Some cover over top of withers, bones felt but not prominent.

Ribs & Belly

Ribs not visible but can be felt with ease.

Back & Loins

Bony parts of the spine felt with light pressure. Poor muscle development either side of midline.

Hindquarters

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

1. POOR

Neck & Shoulders

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

Withers

Withers prominent and bones easily felt.

Ribs & Belly

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

Back & Loins

Backbone prominent, can feel bony parts of the spine easily.

Hindquarters

Hip bones prominent and felt easily. Little muscle cover. May be cavity under tail.

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The Welfare Team Redwings Horse Sanctuary www.redwings.org.uk

please feel free to contact the department by post, phone or email.

To request copies of leaflets or to speak to one of the team about any equine welfare issues,

accurate and up-to-date information is vital if owners and carers are to meet the needs of their animal.

Redwings' Welfare Team is proactive in the promotion of equine care and welfare, believing that access to

overall condition may be reasonable.

Half scores can be assigned where donkeys fall between scores. Aged donkeys can be hard to condition

score due to lack of muscle bulk and tone giving thin appearance dorsally with dropped belly ventrally, while

areas should be made and combined to give an overall score.

Fat deposits may be unevenly distributed especially over the neck and hindquarters. Some resistant fat

deposits may be retained in the event of weight loss and/or may calcify (harden). Careful assessment of all

Important notes

Donkey Body Condition Score Chart (with thanks to The Donkey Sanctuary)

Donkey

Body Condition Score Chart



AN OWNER'S GUIDE



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