



BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY  
THE QUEEN

HORSE AND DOG FOOD MANUFACTURERS

DODSON & HORRELL LIMITED, WETTING

# DODSON & HORRELL

ANIMAL HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING

FEEDING SUCCESS

## RIGHT WEIGHT

### All you need to know

**We recommend that you monitor your horse's weight on a fortnightly basis - it is often difficult to notice changes when you see your horse everyday.**

Ideally weigh your horse using a weigh bridge for a more accurate measurement, however when this is not possible you can use one of our Dodson and Horrell weigh-tapes. Our tapes have been scientifically formulated on research and can be trusted to be a consistent alternative to using a weighbridge.

#### How to use our weigh-tape:

- Make sure that your horse is standing square.
- Use the pony side for those 14.2hh and under and the horse side for those above 14.2hh.
- Hold the blue block in one hand and pass the rest of the tape over the lowest point of your horse's withers.
- Bring the tape up under the horse's stomach as close as possible to the elbow.
- The tape should be in a diagonal position from the lowest point of the withers towards the elbow; it will not be in a straight line.
- Read the number opposite the white line at the end of the blue block.
- This is your horse's approximate weight in kilos.



Call us now for free expert nutritional advice: **01832 737300**

# RIGHT WEIGHT

## Fat Scoring:

- It is important to determine what 'condition' your horse is in as an underweight horse will need a different diet to an overweight horse of the same breed.
- 60% of people's visual assessment of their horse's fat score is different to their 'hands on' fat score.
- You should aim to fat score your horse every fortnight to monitor the amount of fat being carried

**Top Tip:** Practise fat scoring on different horse's so that you get used to feeling the difference between fat and muscle.

Divide the horse into 3 areas. Each area is given a separate score out of 5. Check what you are feeling and score accordingly:

**A. The Neck** - everything forward of the shoulder blade .

**B. The Middle** - behind the shoulder blade to the hips.

**C. The Bottom** - hips, pelvis and hind quarters.

## Neck - Crest and Suprascapular Fat Deposits:

- Start by finding the nuchal ligament and with your thumb and first finger, follow it along the neck.



- Run your hand along your horse's neck, down towards the shoulder blade and feel around his shoulder.
- Pinch the flesh behind his shoulder blade.
- Check above his eyes (supra orbital fossa).

## Middle - Rib Area and Spinous Back Fat:

- Run your hand diagonally across your horse's rib cage using a firm pressure.



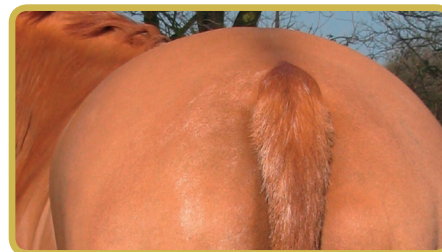
- Place your left hand at the bottom of your horse's withers at 90° to the backbone.



- Place your right hand next to it, with your fingers pointing across (not along) the backbone. Relax the fingers of your right hand and note what you feel.

## Bottom - Sacrum and Tailbone Back Fat, Subcutaneous Fat Over the Bony Prominences of Pelvis:

- Place your hand flat on the top of your horse's bottom to feel the top of his pelvis.
- Run your hand from his hind quarters onto his tail, feeling for his tailbone.



- Find his 'hips' and curve your hand around to feel the outline of the bones.

## 0 - Very Poor

- Neck - marked 'ewe' neck, narrow and slack at base.
- Back and ribs - skin tight over the ribs, ribs very visible, spinous processes have a sharp edge and easily seen.
- Pelvis - angular pelvis, skin tight, very sunken rump. Deep cavity under tail and either side of croup.

## 1 - Poor

- Neck - 'ewe' neck, narrow and slack at base.
- Back and ribs - ribs easily visible, skin sunken either side of backbone. Spinous processes well defined.
- Pelvis - rump sunken but skin supple, pelvis and croup well defined, cavity under tail.

## 2 - Moderate

- Neck - narrow but firm.
- Back and ribs - ribs just visible, backbone well covered. Spinous processes felt.
- Pelvis - rump flat either side of backbone, croup well defined, some fat, slight cavity under tail.

## 3 - Good

- Neck - no crest (except stallions), firm neck.
- Back and ribs - ribs just covered, easily felt. No gutter along back. Spinous processes felt.
- Pelvis - covered by fat and rounded, pelvis easily felt.

## 4 - Fat

- Neck - slight crest, wide and firm.
- Back and ribs - ribs well covered. Gutter along back bone.
- Pelvis - gutter to root of tail. Pelvis covered but soft, felt only with firm pressure.

## 5 - Very Fat

- Neck - marked crest, very wide and firm, folds of fat.
- Back and ribs - ribs buried, cannot feel. Deep gutter, back broad and flat.
- Pelvis - deep gutter to root of tail, skin distended, pelvis buried and can't be felt.

Please visit our website, get in touch via social media or call: **01832 737300**  
dodsonandhorrell.com    



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QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
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