

CONDITION SCORING

Download a condition score chart, then stand your horse square on a level surface and divide his body into three zones. Score each zone out of five, using your hands and the descriptions on the chart as a guide, then work out an average overall score – half points are okay. Repeat the process every two weeks and log your findings so you can quickly spot any changes in condition.

1 NECK AND SHOULDERS

Neck should be firm, with no crest or wobble (except in stallions), and shoulder blades should be defined.

2 BACK AND RIBCAGE

Ribs should be just covered, but still easily felt. There should be a smooth curve across the back, without a gutter along the spine, and the spinous processes felt.

3 HINDQUARTERS

Pelvis should be rounded, but still easily felt, and the croup defined. Above the tail should be a smooth curve.

