Babirusa Body Condition Scoring

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The following document describes a body condition scoring system for babirusa, *Babyrousa babyrussa,* a species of wild swine native to Indonesia.   The body condition scores for babirusa are summarized in Table 1.

Using both visual evaluation and physical touch best assesses a babirusa's body condition, however some babirusas may be too skittish or aggressive to allow tactile assessment. The written body condition score descriptions that follow in this document are accompanied by both illustrated and photographic examples to demonstrate each of the definitions more fully and to assist with the assessment of babirusas which do not tolerate handling.
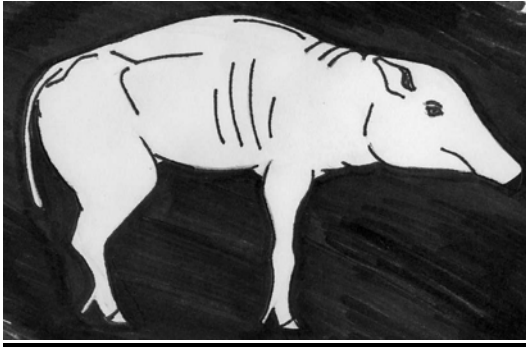
The body condition scoring for babirusa is similar to that utilized with domestic swine. There are three locations on a babirusa's body that should be considered when scoring body condition – Hips, Backbone and Abdomen/Loin. The scoring system starts at **Score 1: Emaciated** and runs to **Score 5: Obese**.

In **Score 1: Emaciated**, the babirusa's body condition is poor and skeletal. The bone structure on a Score 1 pig is clearly visible and prominent with no fat covering over the hipbones, vertebrae or ribs. A **Score 2: Thin** babirusa is lean and slender. The bone structure of a Score 2 pig is still apparent, though with some covering. **Score 3: Good** represents a babirusa which is healthy and fit. A Score 3 babirusa maintains a normal body condition with an appropriate amount of body fat. The hipbones, vertebrae and ribs are not readily visible, though the bone structure can be palpated with firm palm pressure. A **Score 4: Fat** babirusa is considered overweight. The bone structure on this pig cannot be visualized or felt. The final score, **Score 5: Obese**, would include a babirusa which carries an excessive amount of fat all over.

Table 1. Babirusa Body Condition Scoring Summary

SCORE	GENERAL CONDITION	HIPS	BACKBONE	ABDOMEN/LOIN
1 **Emaciated**	Poor, bony, skeletal	Hipbones easily visible, prominent,	Vertebrae easily visible; prominent all along backbone	Individual ribs very apparent
2 **Thin**	Adequate, slim, lean	Hipbones visible with some cover	Vertebrae visible with some cover	Individual ribs apparent with some cover
3 **Good**	Ideal, normal, fit	Good cover, hipbones can only be felt with firm pressure	Good cover, vertebrae can only be felt with firm pressure	Ribs not visible and difficult to feel
4 **Fat**	Unsatisfactory, plump, round	Hipbones well-padded, cannot be felt	Vertebrae well-padded, cannot be felt	Ribs cannot be seen or felt; abdomen/loin somewhat rounded
5 **Obese**	Poor, overweight, rotund	Hips rounded and hipbones thickly covered, cannot be felt	Vertebrae thickly covered, cannot be felt	Ribs thickly covered, cannot be felt; abdomen/loin grossly rounded

Score 1: Emaciated

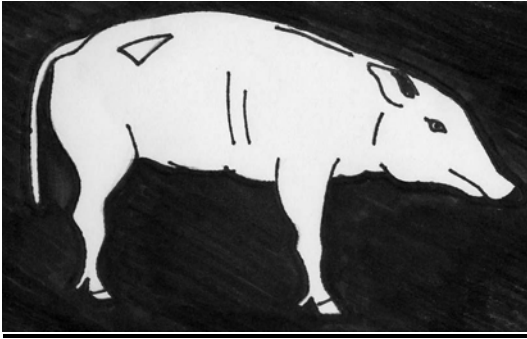

General Condition: Poor, bony, skeletal

Hips: Hipbones easily visible, prominent

Backbone: Vertebrae easily visible, prominent, all along backbone

Abdomen/loin: Individual ribs very apparent
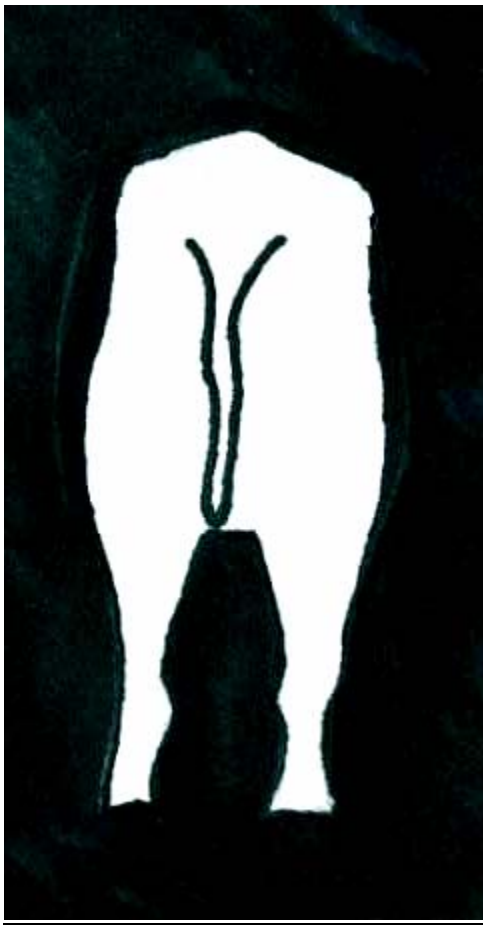
Score 2: Thin

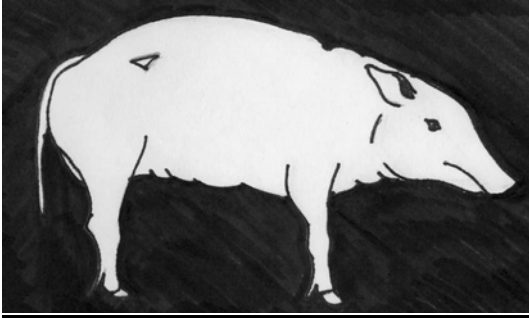

General Condition: Adequate, slim, lean

Hips: Hipbones visible with some cover

Backbone: Vertebrae visible with some cover

Abdomen/loin: Individual ribs apparent with some cover

Score 3: Good
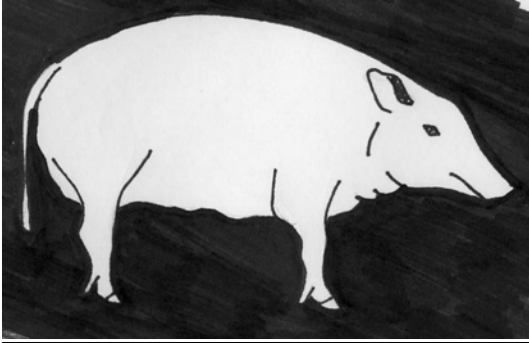

General Condition: Ideal, normal, fit

Hips: Good cover; hipbones can only be felt with firm pressure

Backbone: Good cover; vertebrae can only be felt with firm pressure

Abdomen/loin: Ribs not visible and difficult to feel
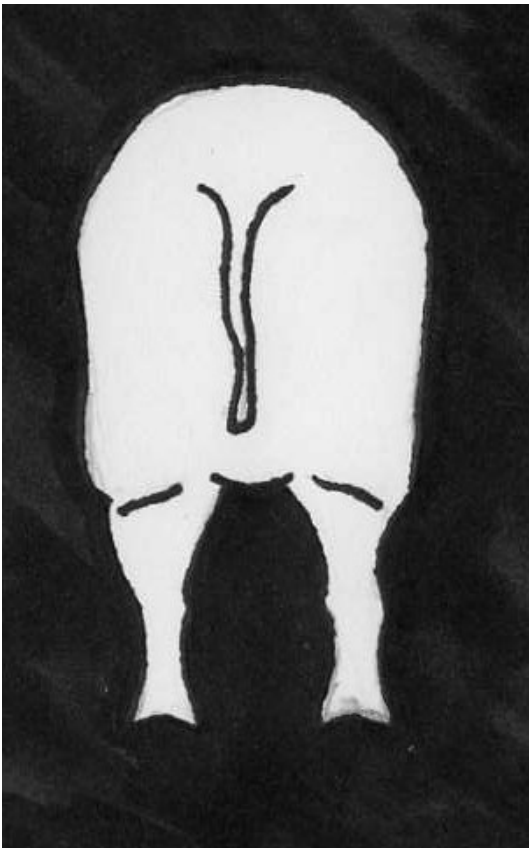
Score 4: Fat

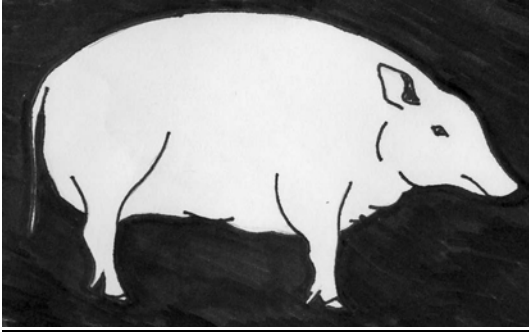| General Condition:	Unsatisfactory, plump, round
Hips:	Hipbones well-padded, cannot be felt
Backbone:	Vertebrae well-padded, cannot be felt
Abdomen/loin:	Ribs cannot be seen or felt; abdomen/loin somewhat rounded

Score 5: Obese

General Condition: Poor, overweight, rotund

Hips: Hips rounded and hipbones thickly covered, cannot be felt

Backbone: Vertebrae thickly covered, cannot be felt

Abdomen/loin: Ribs thickly covered, cannot be felt; abdomen/loin grossly rounded