1.4.1.iii – Cheetah

- Dierenfeld, Standardized BCS

SCORE	1. Very Thin	2. Underweight	3. Ideal	4. Overweight	5. Obese
Outline depictions					
Overall	Loss of muscle mass. Cheek bones prominent; facial features gaunt.	Lean, exaggerated limb delineations, poor muscling. Cheek & face gaunt.	Lean and muscular appearance; obvious delineations between shoulder, stomach and pelvic regions	Stored fat present on inner thigh, pelvic and stomach regions.	Obvious fatty deposits; no definition between shoulder, stomach & pelvic regions
Neck and Shoulders	Bone structure easily visible from a distance	Thin neck	Visible shoulder bones	Shoulders rounded. Neck is thick	Neck is thick and blends into shoulders
Abdominal tuck	Severe	Prominent	Visible without fat pad. Note: pregnant females may have rounded stomach.	None. Note: pregnant females may have rounded stomach.	Large fat pad, no tuck.
Tailhead and pelvis	Very prominent bony structures	Lumbar vertebrae & pelvic bones visible	Bony structure visible but not prominent; thigh muscle obvious while walking. Rear has square appearance.	Fat deposits evident; rear and back have rounded appearance.	Obvious fat deposits over back, pelvis and tail base. Rear & back flat and/or rounded.
Ribs	Obvious	Visible. (Note: Ribs likely not visible if pregnant)	Not visible. (Note: also true if pregnant)	Not visible, fat evident. (Note: also true if pregnant)	Obvious fat deposits

Dierenfeld, E.S., Fuller, L. and Meeks, K. (2005) *Development of a standardized body condition score for cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus) in* Ward, A.M., Hunt, A.S., and Maslanka, M.T. (eds), Proceedings of the Seventh Conference of the AZA Nutrition Advisory Group on Zoo and Wildlife Nutrition, 20th-24th October 2007, Knoxville, T. 202-204