

### 1.4.1.ii – Lions

#### - Dikeman, Field TAG

SCORE	1 Emaciated	2 Underweight	3 Ideal	4 Overweight	5 Obese	Age Adjustments
<b>Overall Appearance</b>	Loss of muscle mass, Facial features gaunt, eyes very sunken and dull. Dull unkept coat.	Lean, exaggerated limb delineations, poor muscling, Cheeks and face gaunt.	Lean and muscular appearance, obvious delineations between shoulder, stomach and pelvic regions. Well kept coat and bright eyes.	Stored fat present on inner thighs, pelvic and stomach regions.	Obvious fatty deposits, no definition between shoulder, stomach and pelvic regions.	An obvious loss of lean body mass over entire body
<b>Neck and Shoulders</b>	Protruding scapula and lack of muscle over the shoulders, Noticeable from a distance	Visible scapula with little muscle over the shoulders, thin neck	Visible scapula with obvious muscle definition over shoulder	Scapula not visible, rounded shoulder region with visible fat deposits, thick neck.	No definition of muscling around shoulder region. The neck is thick and blends into shoulders. The scapula is not visible with large fat deposits over shoulders. No definition between shoulder region and abdominal region.	Loss of lean muscle mass does alter the appearance of the shoulder region. There will be more obvious definition around the shoulders and scapulae.
<b>Abdominal Tuck and Waist</b>	Waist very prominent, Abdominal tuck severe	Obvious waist can be observed, Abdominal tuck prominent.	Waist barely visible, Abdominal tuck visible, No fat pad	No visible waistline. Rib cage and abdominal tuck are even.	Large fat pad over abdominal region causing protrusion of the abdominal area. Abdominal Tuck drops lower than the rib cage.	Fat pads often drop below the rib cage, even though one or two ribs may be evident. Giving rise to the observed "belly fat". Often there is faint abdominal tuck.
<b>Tailhead and Pelvis</b>	Very prominent bony structures. Hip bones very prominent.	Pelvic bones visible.	Bony structure visible but not prominent; thigh muscle obvious while walking.	Slight definition of thighs with evident fat deposits. No bony structures visible. Hind quarter has obvious round appearance.	No definition of thighs. Obvious fat deposits visible over back, pelvis and tail base.	There is obvious definition of thighs, with little muscle.
<b>Vertebral Bodies and Ribs</b>	Tops of lumbar and thoracic vertebrae protruding, all or most of ribs visible from a distance.	Tops of lumbar and thoracic vertebrae visible. More than 2 ribs noticeable from a distance.	Not able to see distinct vertebral bodies or ribs	Vertebrae and ribs not at all evident. Some fat evident over vertebral bodies and ribs.	Obvious fat deposits covering ribs and fat deposits along topline.	Topline vertebrae become obvious before ribs, particularly in the center of the spine. More than 2-3 ribs should not be visible on older cats, even though topline vertebrae will be evident.
						Cats above the age of 15 may need to be adjusted up the scale to account for loss of muscle mass.

Examples

African Lion #1



African Lion (Nala)  
Age = 15 years  
BCS at time of photo = 3

Notes: even though this cat has some visual vertebrae across her topline and definition around her shoulders and scapula, those are age related losses in muscling; therefore, she is considered in ideal body condition for her age.

African Lion 1B



African Lion #2



African Lion  
Age = 16 years  
BCS at time of photo = 1.5

Notes: This cat has obvious definition around shoulder region, scapula, all vertebrae are visible across her topline, and her facial features are gaunt. Due to some remaining abdominal fat, and her age, this cat was scored 1.5. If she were below 15 years of age, this cat would be considered emaciated and scored at 1.

African Lion 2B



African Lion #3



African Lion  
Age = 9 years  
BCS at time of photo = 3  
Notes: This cat has a lean, muscular appearance with definition of shoulder regions and thighs. There are no visible vertebrae or ribs. There is an obvious abdominal tuck and waistline.

African Lion 3B

