1.4.1.i - Domestic Cats

- Waltham; Domestic cat

**Feline**

A review of various animal physiques has led to the development of the Body Condition Guide – a convenient way to consistently and objectively assess the body condition of cats. Body Condition assessments are an excellent way to determine a pet’s food intake and one very important visual factor in assessing overall health and general well-being.

Any feeding guide is exactly that – a guide – as energy requirements can vary up or down by 25% depending on the life stage, coat type, body conformation, age, environmental factors and activity levels.

The Body Condition Guide is a useful tool in teaching clients how to monitor their pet’s physique. This assessment helps in the management of an ideal body condition and the early identification of possible health-related issues.

**Feline Body Condition Guide**

1. **EMACIATED**  No obvious body fat. Ribcage, lumbar vertebrae all evident from a distance. Noticeable loss of muscle mass.

2. **POOR**  Minimal body fat. Ribcage, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones easily felt and possibly visible with no obvious fat.


4. **SOLID**  Visible body fat and minimal muscle tone. Ribcage, lumbar vertebrae and abdomen with noticeable fat deposits.

5. **OBESITY**  Extreme fat deposits evident around the ribcage and lumbar vertebrae with a lower hanging abdomen.