

BODY CONDITION SCORING OF MINK USING A FIVE-POINT SCALE

SCORE 1. Very thin

- The mink has an emaciated appearance with decreased muscle mass.
- The animal has a thin neck and a clearly V-shaped body.
- There is no body fat and the stomach is sunk in.
- Shoulder and hip bones can be seen and the ribs are easily felt.

SCORE 2. Thin

- The mink has a thin neck and a V-shaped waistline.
- There is no subcutaneous body fat layer.
- The shoulder and hip bones and the ribs can be easily felt.

SCORE 3. Ideal

- The mink has a slender neck and a straight body shape.
- There is a slight amount of subcutaneous body fat.
- The shoulder and hip bones and the ribs can be easily felt.

SCORE 4. Heavy

- The mink has a thicker neck and a pear-shaped body.
- The ribs are difficult to feel.
- The shoulder and hip bones are covered by a moderate fat layer.
- An abdominal fat pad is present.

SCORE 5. Obese

- The mink has a thick neck with a slight brisket and a full body shape.
- The ribs are very difficult to feel.
- The shoulder and hip bones are covered by a moderate to thick fat layer.
- A fat pad is present in the abdomen and the tail.
- Fat deposits can be seen in the limbs and the face.