

## **Addax Body Condition Scoring Guide**

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The following document outlines a body condition scoring process for addax, *Addax nasomaculatus*. An overview of the body condition scoring scale can be viewed in Table (1) of this document.

A reference photograph of an addax with all relevant body parts labeled has been provided in Figure (2). Before beginning the evaluation process of an animal, review Figure (2) to become familiar with the body parts referenced in the document.

This is a 9-point body condition scoring scale. Score 1 is emaciated and indicates an animal devoid of fat and muscle, with all boney structures visible. Score 5 is moderate condition with faint ribs seen and some cover over the hooks and pins. Score 9 is extremely fat with fat covering most of the muscle, boney structures are not visible, and the animal may appear lumpy with fat.

Body condition scoring can be a helpful tool for evaluating an animal and making management decisions. In a managed care setting, a score of 1-3 is considered to require possible intervention to evaluate any health or husbandry problems that are impacting the body condition of the animal in question. A score of 4-6 is the optimal range where no intervention or additional management is needed. A score of 7-9 is an animal that is over conditioned and management decisions might need to be made to ensure optimal health of that animal. When using these reference ranges, keep in mind that the body condition of an animal varies at different life stages and times of the year, and it can also be impacted by genetics, social dynamics, stress, etc. Body condition scoring is a tool for evaluating one aspect of animal health and is not the only measure of the physical wellbeing of an animal. Additionally, when using body condition scoring, it is helpful to track changes over time on a routine basis, compare an individual animal to other members of the herd, and have consistency in the individual evaluating the animal(s) in question.

**Table (1). Addax Body Condition Scoring Scale**

Score	Pelvis (hook, pin)	Tail head	Ribs	Back	Neck/Shoulder
<b>1 – emaciated</b>	Bones sharply visible	Deep sunken depressions	Extremely prominent	Vertebrae clearly visible	Scapula clearly visible, neck ropey
<b>2 – very thin</b>	No fat, little muscle; boney structures (ribs, pelvis, spine, scapula) all very visible.				
	Very little fill over bone	Sunken depressions	Very prominent	Vertebrae visible	Scapula visible, neck/shoulder sharp jnx
	Very thin, small amount of muscle, boney structure visible; hooks and pins prominent, ribs obvious.				
<b>3 – thin</b>	Hook, pin easily visible	Depressions visible	Easily visible	Lateral processes visible	Scapular spine visible
	Some individual spinous processes are discernible; hook and pin bones still visible but more fill between.				
<b>4 – slightly thin</b>	Flat from top of pelvis to tail head	Slight depressions	Outline visible	Lateral processes still visible, but spine smooth	Slight scapular spine visible
	Spine smooth (spinous processes not visible), ribs can be seen.				
<b>5 – moderate</b>	Slight rounding to tail head; h/p covered	No depressions	Faintly seen caudally	Flesh obscures vertebrae	Shoulder smooth
	Faint ribs can be seen, especially caudally; rounded butt, still see hook and pin but covered some.				
<b>6 – slightly fat</b>	Round from top of pelvis to tail head	Small fat deposits, slight crease may be seen	Not visible	Back flat, withers slightly rounded	Smooth neck/shoulder jnx; neck sl rounded
	Rounded over pins, hooks, shoulder, spine with flat back. Small fat deposit on lateral abdomen in front of stifle.				
<b>7 – moderately fat</b>	Hook, pins covered, rounded to tailhead	Moderate deposits, slight crease	Not visible	Back flat and wide, rounded withers	Scapula well covered
	Fat pockets in front of stifle, behind elbow, and at tail head.				
<b>8 – fat</b>	Very rounded	Bulging fat deposits, crease	Not visible	Slight crease, wide withers	Bulging at neck/shoulder jnx
	Fat behind the shoulder, over ribs; back is wide and flat with a slight crease. Fat may be visible on ventral midline.				
<b>9 – extremely fat</b>	Fat pockets over rounded rump	Deep crease on rump, bulging fat	Not visible	Positive crease along back	Bulging fat
	Fat covers most of muscle and boney structures are not visible.; body is very rounded, and may appear lumpy with fat.				

Figure (1)

## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

*Addax nasomaculatus*

### Body Parts Diagrams

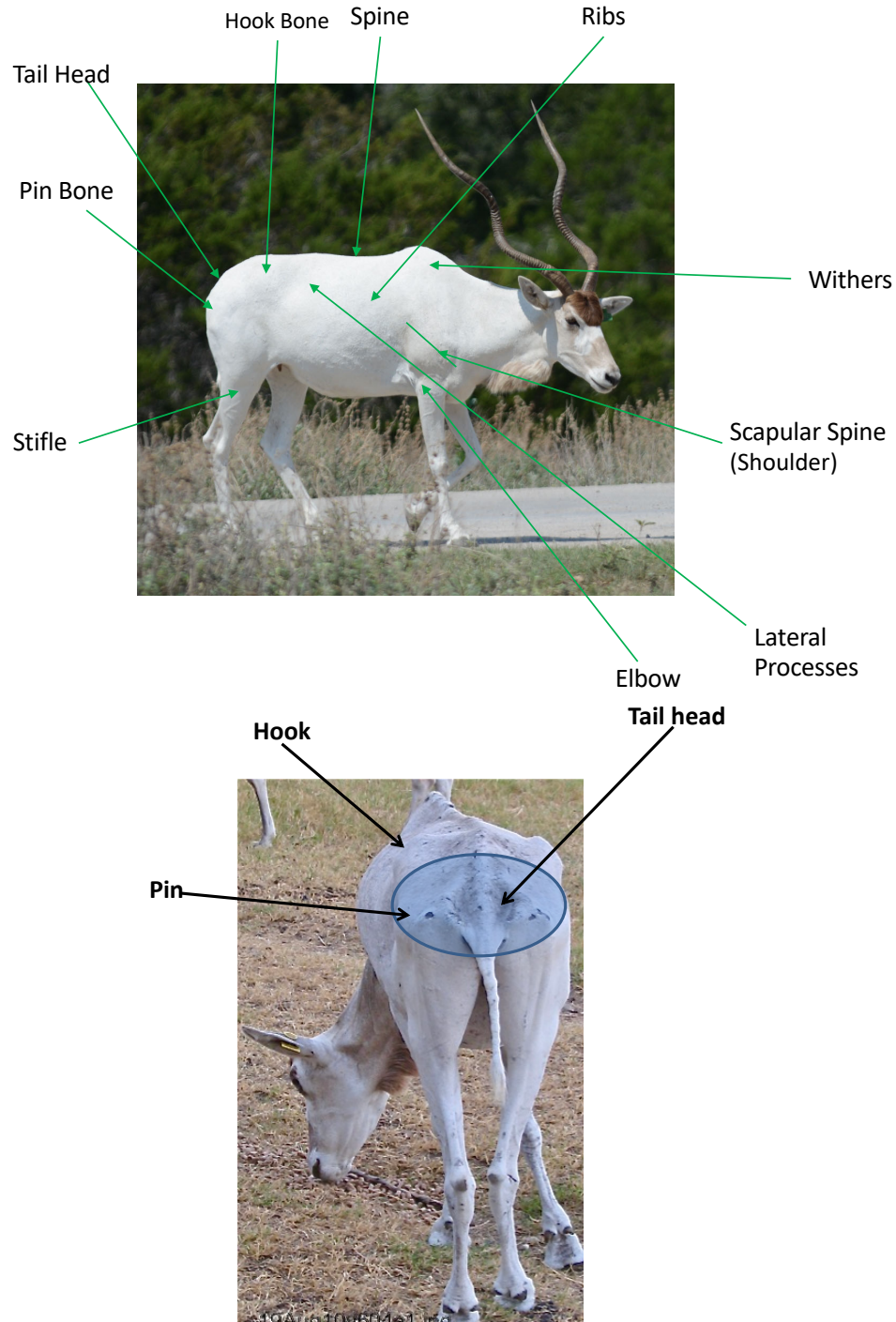
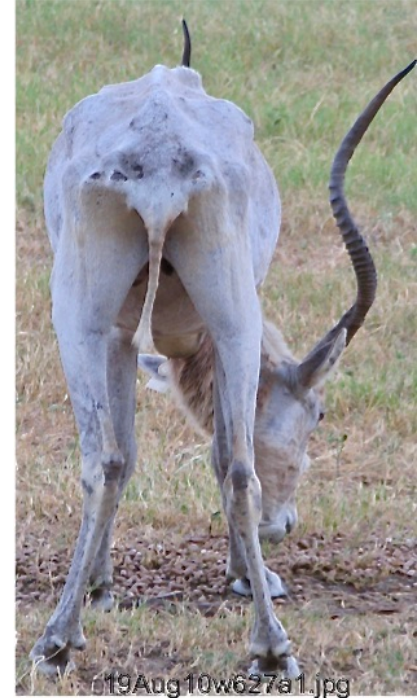


Figure (2)



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 1: Emaciated



<b>Pelvis (hooks, pin)</b>	Bones sharply visible
<b>Tail Head</b>	Deep sunken depressions
<b>Ribs</b>	Extremely prominent
<b>Back</b>	Vertebrae clearly visible
<b>Neck/Shoulder</b>	Scapula clearly visible, neck ropey
<b>Notes</b>	<i>No fat, little muscle; boney structures all visible.</i>



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 2: Very Thin



<b>Pelvis (hooks, pin)</b>	Very little fill over bone
<b>Tail Head</b>	Sunken depressions
<b>Ribs</b>	Very prominent
<b>Back</b>	Vertebrae visible
<b>Neck/Shoulder</b>	Scapula visible, neck/shoulder sharp junction

**Notes** *Very thin, small amount of muscle, boney structures visible; hooks & pins prominent, ribs obvious.*

## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 3: Thin



**Pelvis (hooks, pin)**

Hook, pin easily visible

**Tail Head**

Depressions visible

**Ribs**

Easily visible

**Back**

Lateral processes visible

**Neck/Shoulder**

Scapular spine visible

**Notes**

*Some individual spinous processes are discernable; hook and pin bones visible with fill in between.*



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 4: Slightly Thin

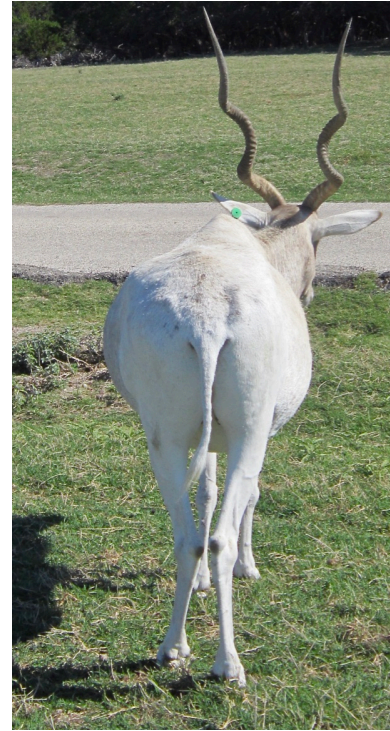


<b>Pelvis (hooks, pin)</b>	Flat from top of pelvis to tail head
<b>Tail Head</b>	Slight depressions
<b>Ribs</b>	Outline visible
<b>Back</b>	Lateral processes still visible, but spine smooth
<b>Neck/Shoulder</b>	Slight scapular spine visible
<b>Notes</b>	<i>Spine smooth (spinous processes not visible), ribs can be seen.</i>



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 5: Moderate



**Pelvis (hooks, pin)**

Slight rounding to tail head; hooks and pins covered

**Tail Head**

No depressions

**Ribs**

Faintly seen caudally

**Back**

Flesh obscures vertebrae

**Neck/Shoulder**

Shoulder smooth

**Notes**

*Faint ribs can be seen, especially caudally; rounded rump, still see hook and pin, but with some cover.*

## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 6: Slightly Fat



<b>Pelvis (hooks, pin)</b>	Rounded from top of pelvis to tail head
<b>Tail Head</b>	Small fat deposits, slight crease may be seen
<b>Ribs</b>	Not visible
<b>Back</b>	Back flat, withers slightly rounded
<b>Neck/Shoulder</b>	Smooth neck/shoulder junction; neck/shoulder rounded
<b>Notes</b>	<i>Rounded over pins, hooks, shoulder, spine with flat back. Small fat deposit on lateral abdomen in front of stifle.</i>



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 7: Moderately Fat



**Pelvis (hooks, pin)** Hook, pins covered, rounded to tail head

**Tail Head** Moderate fat deposits, slight crease

**Ribs** Not visible

**Back** Back flat and wide, rounded withers

**Neck/Shoulder** Scapula well covered

**Notes** *Fat pockets in front of stifle, behind elbow, and at tail head.*



## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 8: Fat



**Pelvis (hooks, pin)**

Very rounded

**Tail Head**

Bulging fat deposits, crease

**Ribs**

Not visible

**Back**

Slight crease, wide withers

**Neck/Shoulder**

Bulging at neck/shoulder junction

**Notes**

*Fat behind the shoulder, over ribs: back is wide and flat with slight crease. Fat may be visible on ventral midline.*

## Addax Body Condition Score Guide

### Score 9: Extremely Fat



**Pelvis (hooks, pin)**

Fat pockets over rounded rump

**Tail Head**

Deep crease on rump, bulging fat

**Ribs**

Not visible

**Back**

Positive crease along back

**Neck/Shoulder**

Bulging fat

**Notes**

*Fat covers most of muscle, and boney structures are not visible; body is very rounded and may appear lumpy with fat.*