

Scimitar-horned Oryx Body Condition Scoring Guide

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The following document outlines a body condition scoring process for the Scimitar-horned Oryx, *Oryx dammah*. An overview of the body condition scoring scale can be viewed in Table (1) of this document.

A reference photograph of a Scimitar-horned Oryx with all relevant body parts labeled has been provided in Figure (1). Before beginning the evaluation process of an animal, review Figure (1) 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). Scimitar-horned Oryx Body Condition Scoring Scale

Score	Pelvis (hook, pin)	Tail head	Ribs	Back	Neck/Shoulder
1 – emaciated	Bones sharply visible	Deep sunken depressions	Extremely prominent	Vertebrae clearly visible	Scapula clearly visible, neck ropey
2 – very thin	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.				
3 – thin	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.				
4 – slightly thin	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.				
5 – moderate	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.				
6 – slightly fat	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.				
7 – moderately fat	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.				
8 – fat	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.				
9 – extremely fat	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.				

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Oryx dammah

Body Parts Diagram

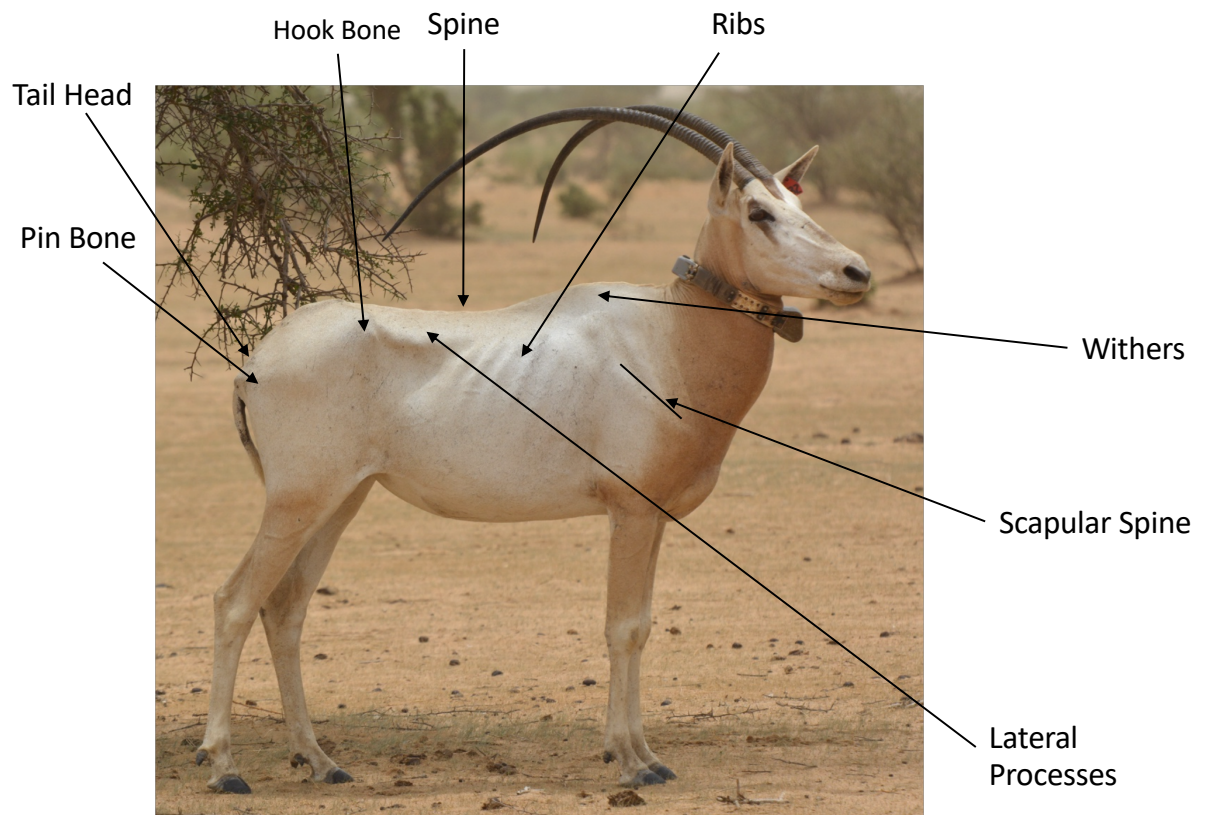


Figure (1)

Scimitar-horned Oryx Body Condition Score Guide

Score 1: Emaciated



Pelvis (hooks, pin)

Bones sharply visible

Tail Head

Deep sunken depressions

Ribs

Extremely prominent

Back

Vertebrae clearly visible

Neck/Shoulder

Scapula clearly visible, neck ropey

Notes

No fat, little muscle; boney structures all visible.

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Score 2: Very Thin



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

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

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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.*

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Score 4: Slightly Thin



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

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

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Score 6: Slightly Fat



Pelvis (hooks, pin) Rounded from top of pelvis to tail head

Tail Head Small fat deposits, slight crease may be seen

Ribs Not visible

Back Back flat, withers slightly rounded

Neck/Shoulder Smooth neck/shoulder junction;
neck/shoulder rounded

Notes *Rounded over pins, hooks, shoulder, spine with flat back.
Small fat deposit on lateral abdomen in front of stifle.*

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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.*

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

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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.*