

Gorilla Body Condition Guidelines

Maintaining a healthy body condition is critical to a gorilla's quality of life, longevity, and reproductive success. Zoo Atlanta developed these guidelines to assist with routine monitoring and assessment of captive western lowland gorilla body conditions.

Assess condition while in normal standing or seated position except where noted.

Add up total score and then divide by 8 to obtain their average overall average body condition score.

Body Condition Scores:

1-Very Thin: Loss of muscle mass. Facial features gaunt. Eyes very sunken and dull. Dull unkept coat

2-Underweight: Lean. Exaggerated limb delineation. Poor muscling. Cheeks and face gaunt.

3-Ideal: Lean and muscular appearance. Obvious delineations between shoulder, abdomen, and pelvic region. Well kept coat and bright eyes.

4-Overweight: Stored fat present on inner thighs, pelvic, and abdomen regions.

5-Obese: Obvious fatty deposits. No definition between shoulder, abdomen, and pelvic region.

Zoo Atlanta Gorilla Body Scoring Sheet

DATE: _____

WEIGHT: _____

Accession #: _____

NAME _____

OBSERVER: _____

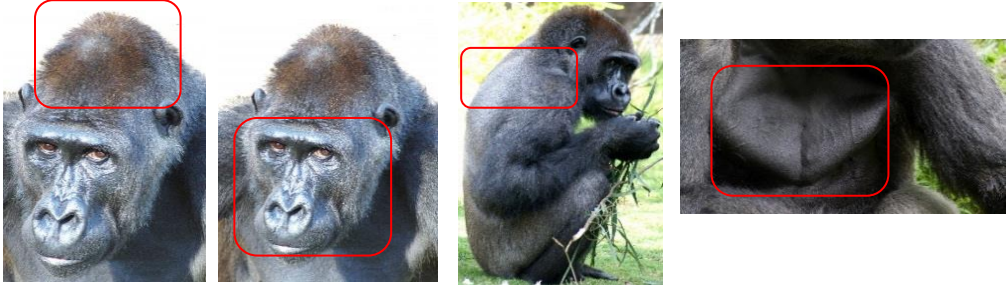
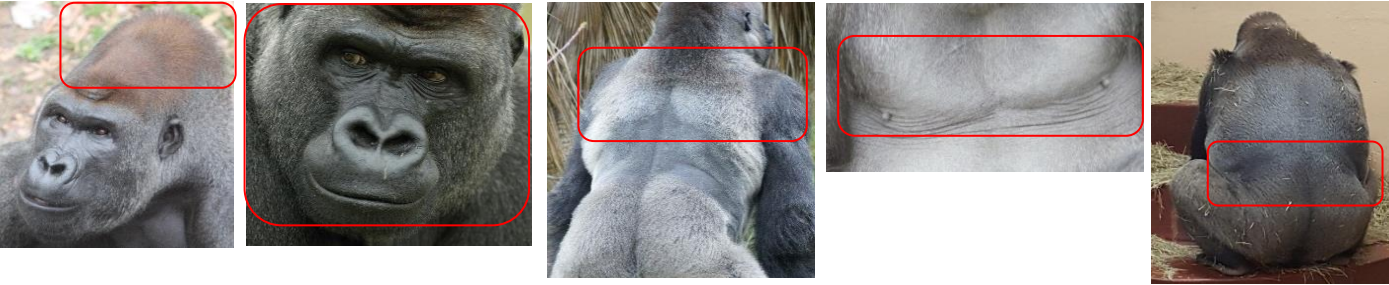
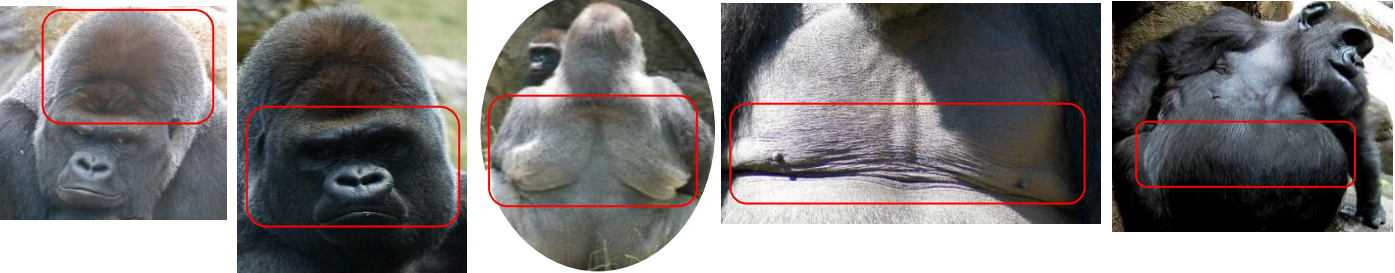
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Score |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-------|
| Hair Coat/Skin | Skin dry and flaky, haircoat appears rough and with bare patches | Skin flaky and haircoat sheds easily and appears dull | Smooth skin, glossy/glistening haircoat | Haircoat oily/glossy | Excessively oily haircoat | |
| Sagittal Crest | Short crest, no muscle mass visible, sunken in, bones very prominent | Obvious sagittal crest, thin layer of subcutaneous fat. Muscle mass not as visible | Tall and defined crest, no bony protrusion of sagittal crest, moderate muscle mass visible | Less defined crest | Tall, less defined crest visible, rounded | |
| Face | Facial bones very prominent, hollowed facial features, sunken cheeks | Angular lines, cheeks defined but not sunken | Well developed facial muscles, smooth lines, no bony protrusion of features | smooth lines, rounded angles | Rounded and poorly defined features/cheeks, chubby appearance | |
| Back/ Shoulders | Scapula extremely prominent, protruding vertebrae, exaggerated concave muscle slope; No back skin folds | Scapula visibly prominent with only a small amount of muscle mass; slight concave muscle slope and prominent vertebrae; mild or no back skin folds visible | Bony prominences smooth but firm; back skin folds visible; visible but smooth transition, even muscle slope; rounded edges of scapula. Well developed neck muscles | Moderate back skin folds; slight convex slope; no visible vertebral line; abundant subcutaneous fat layer | Prominent skin folds with excessive fatty build up; bony contours smooth and poorly defined; pronounced fat deposits | |
| Chest <small>*Score this area while gorilla is sitting in front of you with chest parallel to the mesh</small> | Prominent collarbones; hollowed pectoral muscle | Collarbones are less prominent, decreased pectoral muscle, no axillary fat | Well developed pectoral muscles, no axillary fat accumulation | Well developed pectoral muscles and subcutaneous fat layer; may have fat deposits starting to accumulate in axillary area | Overdeveloped pectoral area with obvious large fat pads in axillary regions | |
| Ribs | Individual ribs clearly visible, protruding | Ribs visible with only a small amount of muscle mass overlying | Ribs are not visible | Ribs may be difficult to visualize because of more abundant subcutaneous fat layer | Overly rounded. Rib contours are not visible | |
| Hips | Very prominent hip bones, minimal to no muscle mass over hip points; no visible padding or muscle mass | Visibly prominent hip points with only a small amount of muscle mass overlying | Some fat present. Hip bones are not generally visible; well-developed muscle mass and subcutaneous fat layer gives hips smooth look | Well padded, difficult to visualize; more abundant subcutaneous fat layer. Prominent fat pads in inguinal area | Unable to visualize, overly rounded; hip points not visible | |
| Perineum | Anus may be recessed between ischial protuberance, rear end is very angular with no subcutaneous fat | Rear end is less angular | Well defined gluteal muscles and subcutaneous fat layer | Bony contours rounded and poorly defined | Obvious large fat deposits and skin folds | |

- 1-VERY THIN
 - 2-UNDERWEIGHT
 - 3-IDEAL
 - 4-OVERWEIGHT
 - 5-OBESE

TOTAL: _____

AVERAGE: _____

GORILLA BODY SCORING REFERENCE SHEET

| BCS | Description and example photographs |
|-----|---|
| 1 | <p>Sagittal Crest: Short crest, no muscle mass visible, sunken in, bones very prominent</p> <p>Face: Facial bones very prominent, hollowed facial features, sunken cheeks</p> <p>Back/Shoulders: Scapula extremely prominent, protruding vertebrae, exaggerated concave muscle slope. No back skin folds</p> <p>Chest: Prominent collarbones; hollowed pectoral muscle</p> <p>Hips: Very prominent hip bones, minimal to no muscle mass over hip points. No visible padding or muscle mass.</p>  <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Need a picture of slim/skinny hips</p> </div> |
| 3 | <p>Sagittal Crest: Tall and defined crest, no bony protrusion of sagittal crest, moderate muscle mass visible</p> <p>Face: Well developed facial muscles, smooth lines, no boney protrusion of features</p> <p>Back/Shoulders: Bony prominences smooth but firm; back skin folds visible; visible but smooth transition, even muscle slope. Rounded edges of scapula. Well developed neck muscles</p> <p>Chest: Well developed pectoral muscles, no axillary fat accumulation</p> <p>Hips: Some fat present. Hip bones not generally visible; well-developed muscle mass and subcutaneous fat layer gives hips smooth look</p>  |
| 5 | <p>Sagittal Crest: Tall, less defined crest visible, rounded</p> <p>Face: Rounded and poorly defined features/cheeks, chubby appearance</p> <p>Back/Shoulders: Prominent skin folds with excessive fatty build up; boney contours smooth and poorly defined; pronounced fat deposits</p> <p>Chest: Overdeveloped pectoral area with obvious large fat pads in axillary regions</p> <p>Hips: Unable to visualize, overly rounded; hip points not visible</p>  |