

Muscle Condition Score Due To Wasting

Muscle condition score is assessed by visualization and palpation of the spine, scapulae, skull, and wings of the ilia. Muscle loss, or wasting, is typically first noted in the epaxial muscles on each side of the spine; muscle loss at other sites can be more variable. Muscle condition score is graded as normal, mild loss, moderate loss, or severe loss. Note that cats can have significant muscle loss even if they are overweight (body condition score > 5/9). Conversely, cats can have a low body condition score (< 4/9) but have minimal muscle loss. Therefore, assessing both body condition score and muscle condition score at every vet visit is important. Palpation is especially important with mild muscle loss and in cats that are overweight. An example of each score is shown below.

