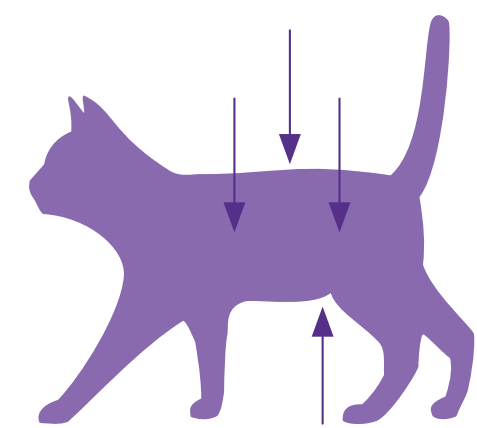
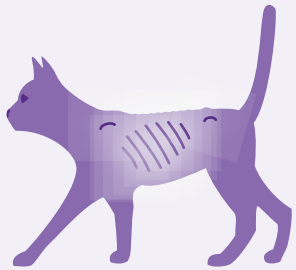
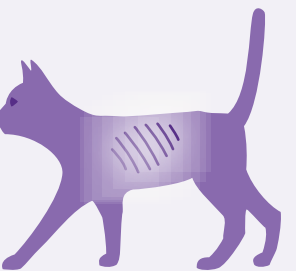
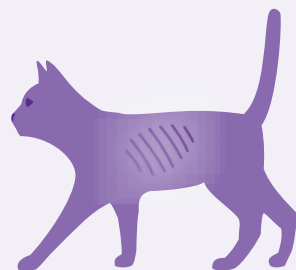
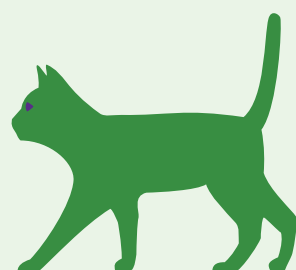
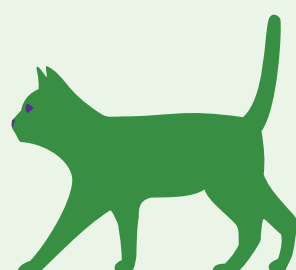
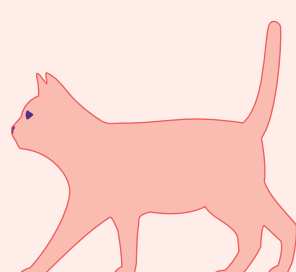
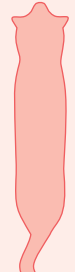
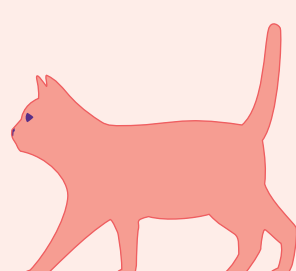
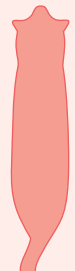
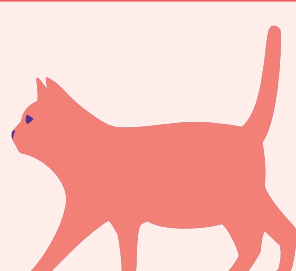


Assessment of the nutritional status of a cat

A proven and simple method for recording the nutritional status of a cat is the **Body Condition Score (BCS)**. For assessing the visibility/palpability of the ribs, the spinal spinous processes and the pelvic bones, the shape of the waist and the abdominal fat pad are included.



BCS (scale 1-9)

UNDERWEIGHT	1	Ribs clearly visible*; no fat layer palpable over ribs; Very strongly drawn in belly line; very narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones easily visible / palpable		
	2	Ribs visible*; no fat layer palpable; Strongly drawn in belly line; very narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones visible / palpable		
	3	Ribs easily visible*; minimal fat layer palpable; Drawn in belly line; narrow waist; Spinous processes / pelvic bones barely visible / palpable		
NORMAL WEIGHT	4	Ribs not visible*; light fat layer palpable; Ribs can be delineated from one another upon palpation; Slightly drawn in belly line; distinct waist; Minimal quantity of belly fat		
	5	Well proportioned cat; Ribs see 4; Small amount of belly fat; slightly drawn in waist		
OVERWEIGHT	6	Ribs difficult to palpate and just barely distinguishable from one another; Belly line barely drawn in; waist barely noticeable		
	7	Ribs difficult to palpate; Belly line not drawn in; waist barely recognisable; Moderate amount of belly fat; waist circumference slightly enlarged		
	8	Ribs cannot be palpated under the fat layer; Belly line not drawn in; waist not recognisable; Significant amount of belly fat; waist circumference significantly enlarged		
	9	Ribs cannot be palpated under an excessive layer of fat; Excessive amount of belly fat; waist circumference greatly enlarged; Fat deposits in the lumbar region and on the limbs		

* Assessment of the ribs in short-haired cats
Modified acc. to WSAVA or the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association

