











## Body Condition Scoring in Mice and Rats

<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 1</b></p> <p><b>Mouse is emaciated.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Skeletal structure extremely prominent; little or no flesh cover.</i></li> <li>• <i>Vertebrae distinctly segmented.</i></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 1</b></p> <p><b>Rat is emaciated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmentation of vertebral column prominent if not visible.</li> <li>• Little or no flesh cover over dorsal pelvis. Pins prominent if not visible.</li> <li>• Segmentation of caudal vertebrae prominent.</li> </ul>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 2</b></p> <p><b>Mouse is underconditioned.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Segmentation of vertebral column evident.</i></li> <li>• <i>Dorsal pelvic bones are readily palpable.</i></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 2</b></p> <p><b>Rat is under conditioned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmentation of vertebral column prominent.</li> <li>• Thin flesh cover over dorsal pelvis, little subcutaneous fat. Pins easily palpable.</li> <li>• Thin flesh cover over caudal vertebrae, segmentation palpable with slight pressure.</li> </ul>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 3</b></p> <p><b>Mouse is well-conditioned.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vertebrae and dorsal pelvis not prominent; palpable with slight pressure.</i></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 3</b></p> <p><b>Rat is well-conditioned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmentation of vertebral column easily palpable.</li> <li>• Moderate subcutaneous fat store over pelvis. Pins easily palpable with slight pressure.</li> <li>• Moderate fat store around tail base, caudal vertebrae may be palpable but not segmented.</li> </ul>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 4</b></p> <p><b>Mouse is overconditioned.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Spine is a continuous column.</i></li> <li>• <i>Vertebrae palpable only with firm pressure.</i></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 4</b></p> <p><b>Rat is overconditioned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with slight pressure.</li> <li>• Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis. Pins of pelvis palpable with firm pressure.</li> <li>• Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable.</li> </ul>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 5</b></p> <p><b>Mouse is obese.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mouse is smooth and bulky.</i></li> <li>• <i>Bone structure disappears under flesh and subcutaneous fat.</i></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BC 5</b></p> <p><b>Rat is obese</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with firm pressure; may be a continuous column.</li> <li>• Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis. Pins of pelvis not palpable with firm pressure.</li> <li>• Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable.</li> </ul>
<p><i>A "+" or a "-" can be added to the body condition score if additional increments are necessary (i.e. ...2+, 2, 2-...)</i></p>	