Body Condition Scoring in Mice and Rats

**BC 1**
- Mouse is emaciated.
  - Skeletal structure extremely prominent; little or no flesh cover.
  - Vertebrae distinctly segmented.

**BC 2**
- Mouse is underconditioned.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column evident.
  - Dorsal pelvic bones are readily palpable.

**BC 3**
- Mouse is well-conditioned.
  - Vertebrae and dorsal pelvis not prominent; palpable with slight pressure.

**BC 4**
- Mouse is overconditioned.
  - Spine is a continuous column.
  - Vertebrae palpable only with firm pressure.

**BC 5**
- Mouse is obese.
  - Mouse is smooth and bulky.
  - Bone structure disappears under flesh and subcutaneous fat.

A "+" or a "-" can be added to the body condition score if additional increments are necessary (i.e. ...2+, 2, 2-...)

**BC 1**
- Rat is emaciated.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column prominent if not visible.
  - Little or no flesh cover over dorsal pelvis. Pins prominent if not visible.
  - Segmentation of caudal vertebrae prominent.

**BC 2**
- Rat is underconditioned.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column prominent.
  - Thin flesh cover over dorsal pelvis, little subcutaneous fat. Pins easily palpable.
  - Thin flesh cover over caudal vertebrae, segmentation palpable with slight pressure.

**BC 3**
- Rat is well-conditioned.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column easily palpable.
  - Moderate subcutaneous fat store over pelvis. Pins easily palpable with slight pressure.
  - Moderate fat store around tail base, caudal vertebrae may be palpable but not segmented.

**BC 4**
- Rat is overconditioned.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with slight pressure.
  - Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis. Pins of pelvis palpable with firm pressure.
  - Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable.

**BC 5**
- Rat is obese.
  - Segmentation of vertebral column palpable with firm pressure; may be a continuous column.
  - Thick subcutaneous fat store over dorsal pelvis. Pins of pelvis not palpable with firm pressure.
  - Thick fat store over tail base, caudal vertebrae not palpable.