

Is your dog fit?

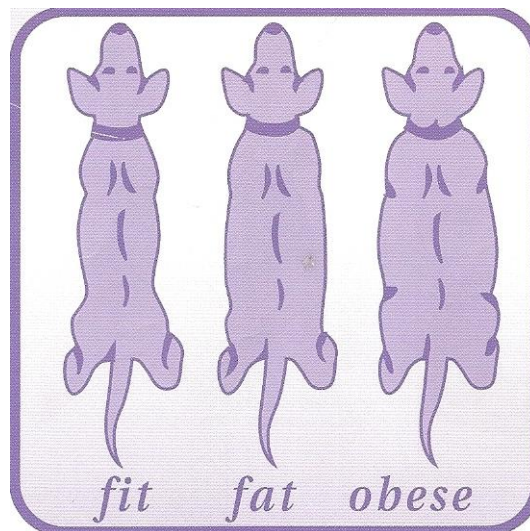


The image contains three green panels, each with a dog silhouette and a red circle highlighting its body shape. The first panel shows a dog that is too thin, with ribs clearly visible. The second panel shows a dog in ideal condition, with a visible waist and tucked belly. The third panel shows a dog that is too heavy, with no waist and a rounded belly.

Too Thin
Ribs are highly visible. Increase the amount you are feeding. After 2 or 3 weeks, compare again. Adjust until dog exhibits Ideal Body Condition.

Ideal
Can feel and see outline of ribs. dog has a waist when viewed from above. Belly is tucked up when viewed from the side. Maintain current feeding regimen.

Too Heavy
Dog has no waist when viewed from above. Belly is rounded when viewed from the side. Decrease amount you are feeding. After 2 or 3 weeks, compare again. Adjust as necessary.



Weight charts will give you a general idea of your dog's ideal weight, but will not take into account variations within breeds, mixed breeds or gender. Below are tests to help assess your dog's condition.

Rib Test: Gently place thumbs on either side of your dog's spine and on the sides of the chest cavity. Run your fingers along the sides, toward the tail and try to feel the ribs. If the ribs are easy to feel, but not visible, your dog is in fit shape. If not, it is a sign of extra weight.

Tummy Tuck: Have your dog stand. When you view your dog from the side, does the tummy tuck up behind the rib cage? If so, your dog is probably fit. If not, your dog may be overweight.

Hourglass: Stand directly over your standing dog. The body should narrow in from of the hips, behind the ribs, like an hourglass. If you do not see the hourglass figure, your dog may be too heavy.