



Scores of Donkeys!

Can you tell how healthy they are?

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- In this activity you will assess the health of some of the Donkey Sanctuary's animals.
- You will also look at the donkeys' diets.
- Use the information provided to answer the questions and complete the tasks.

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At the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary you will find many, healthy donkeys who are a perfect weight and in great condition.

Sadly though, some of the animals at the Sanctuary have been rescued and need special attention from the keepers to get them back to peak health and fitness. Also, some donkeys may be quite old, ill or recovering from illnesses which means they, too, need special care.

In order to do this, the keepers need to monitor the donkeys' health and food intake very carefully.

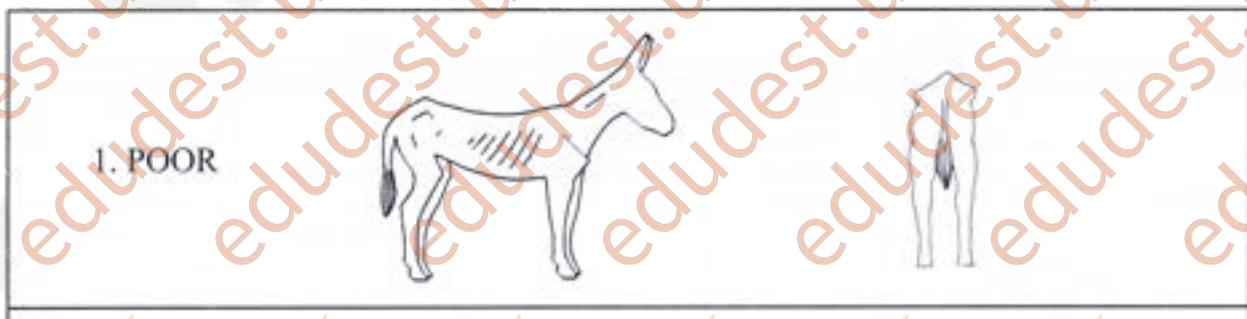
On the next two pages you will find health scoring charts like those used by the keepers to check each animal's condition.



Look at the charts and read the information thoroughly.

Then choose 4 of your favourite donkeys and assess their fitness.

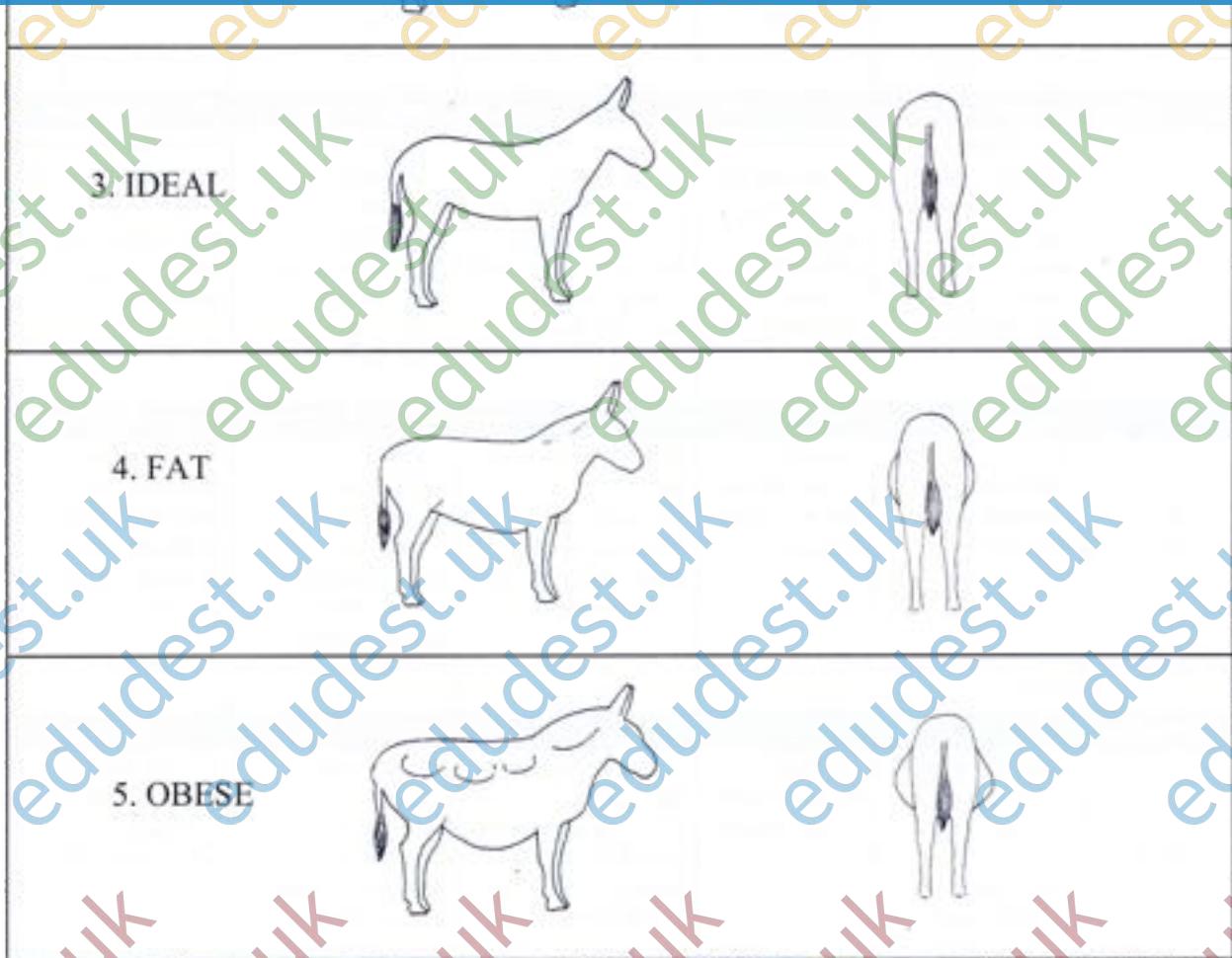
Try to choose some donkeys that are fatter or thinner than the others so that you get to practise scoring them properly!

DONKEY BODY CONDITION SCORE CHART

1. POOR

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3. IDEAL

4. FAT

5. OBESE

Condition Score	Neck & Shoulders	Ribs & Belly	Back & Loins	Hind Quarters
1 - POOR	Neck thin. Neck meets shoulder abruptly, shoulder bones jagged.	Ribs can be seen from a distance. Belly tucked up.	Backbone easily seen (prominent).	Hip bones visible. Little muscle cover. May be a cavity under tail.
2 - Moderate	Some muscle development overlying bones. Slight step where neck meets shoulders.	Ribs not visible.	Poor muscle development either side of spine.	Poor muscle cover on hind quarters. Hip bones may be slightly visible.
3 - IDEAL	Good muscle development and light cover of muscle/fat. Neck flows smoothly into shoulder which is rounded.	Ribs just covered by light fat/muscle. Belly firm with good muscle tone and flattish outline.	Muscle development either side of spine is good.	Good muscle cover in hind quarters. Hip bones rounded in appearance.

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Shoulders covered in bulging with far and may fall to one side.	Evenly placed fat along spine and bulging either side.
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OK - YOUR TURN! Choose your four favourite donkeys and use the information on the previous pages to condition score them!

Remember - score from 1-5 where 1 is Poor and 5 is Obese. Then decide on an overall score for each animal.

Donkey Name	Neck & Shoulders	Ribs & Belly	Back & Loins	Hind Quarters	OVERALL SCORE

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If there is a keeper available, you could ask them questions too! Remember that they may be busy dealing with the animals, and that is more important.

TASK TWO - DIET

It is important that the keepers know how much food each animal gets. Apart from the grass they eat in the fields, can you find out what else the donkeys are given to eat?

Answer the following questions using the information boards or find a friendly keeper!

Q1. What else are the donkeys given to eat? Make a list...

Q2. Are all the donkeys fed the same amount of food? If not, why not?

Q3. How will the amount and type of foods given affect the donkey's overall health?

