

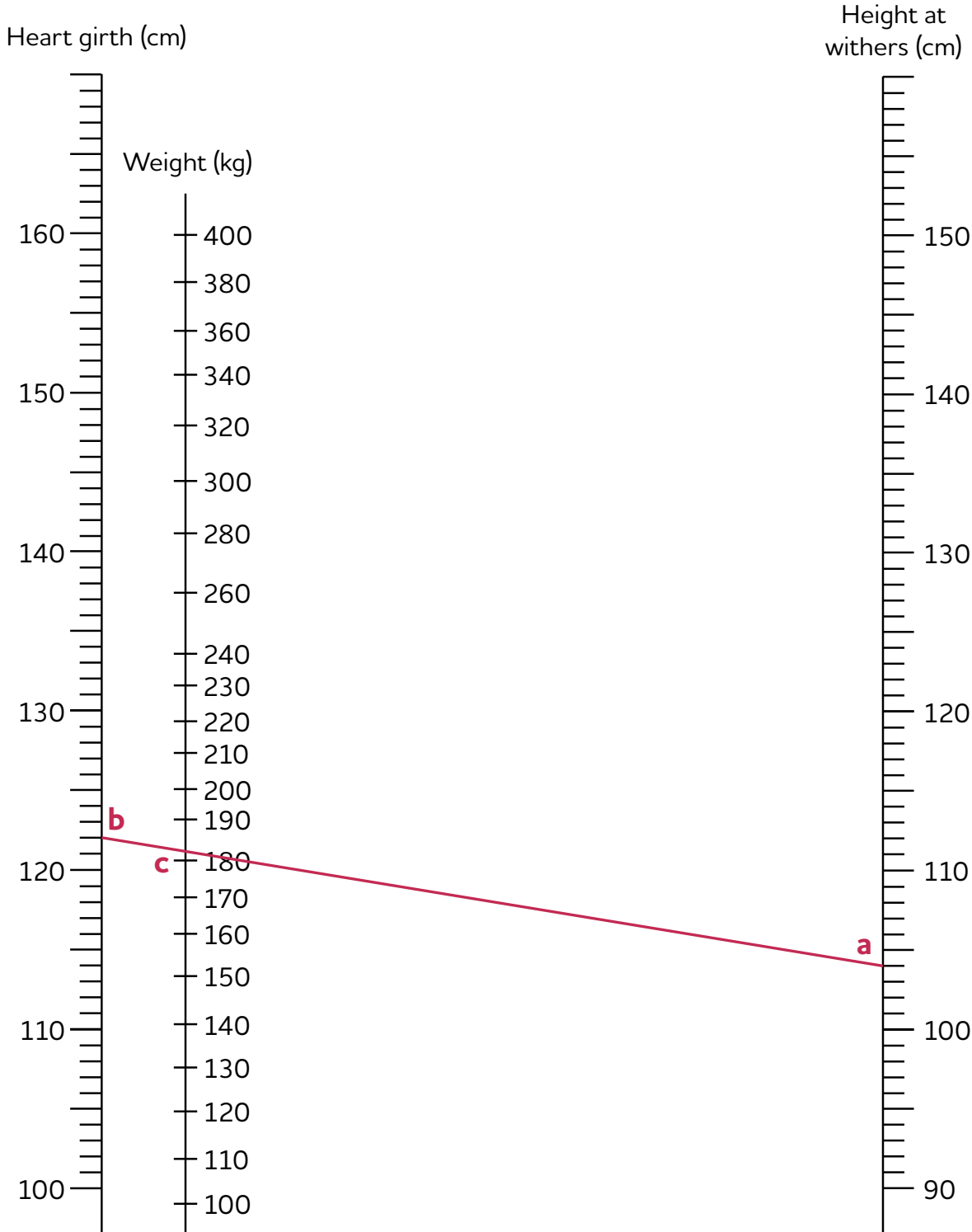
DONKEY WEIGHT ESTIMATOR



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To estimate a donkey's weight using the diagram below mark the height and heart girth measurements on the correct axis. Then draw a line between the two. The donkey's weight is indicated by where the line crosses the weight axis. For example, a donkey 104cm tall (a) and with a heart girth 122cm (b) should weigh 181kg (c).

Donkey weight estimator



Whilst the weight estimator is an effective tool to estimate weight it's accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Weight estimation table for donkeys under 2 years

Heart Girth (cm)	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Weight (kg)	46	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63	65	67	69	71	74	76	78	81	83	86	88	91	94	96	99	102

EXAMPLE DIETS: FOR THE MATURE, PREGNANT AND LACTATING DONKEY



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Mature donkeys fed on fibrous forages:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg donkey maintenance (summer)	14.4	2.4 kg	2.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + limited grazing or + 0.5 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM)
180 kg donkey maintenance (winter)	17.1	3.1 kg	3 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 0.4 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM)
Dieting donkey goal weight 180 kg (summer)	13	2.4 kg	2.2 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + very limited grazing or + 0.2 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM) + forage balancer
Dieting donkey goal weight 180 kg (winter)	15.5	3.1 kg	3.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + very limited grazing or + forage balancer
180 kg donkey (aged) with dental disease (summer)	14.4–15	2.4 kg	2.4 kg short chop hay replacer (7.3 MJ DE/kg DM assuming 85% DM) e.g. forage balancer
180 kg donkey (aged) with dental disease (winter)	17.1–18	3.1 kg	2.9 kg short chop hay replacer (7.3 MJ DE/kg DM assuming 85% DM) e.g. forage balancer

Pregnant donkeys in the final 3 months of pregnancy:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg - 9 months gestation (summer)	16.7	2–2.4 kg	1.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or + 1.3 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg - 10 months gestation (summer)	17.4	2–2.4 kg	0.4 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 1.8 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 11 months gestation (summer)	18.6	2–2.4 kg	2.2 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer + grazing If hay is not managed supplement with high fibre cubes, alfalfa chop or unmolassed sugar beet
180 kg - 9 months gestation (winter)	19.8	2.5–3.1 kg	1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) 1.7 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 10 months gestation (winter)	20.7	2.5–3.1 kg	2.2 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) 0.4 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 11 months gestation (winter)	22.1	2.5–3 kg	2.5 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 200 g alfalfa chop (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer

Lactating donkeys:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg lactation 1st month (summer)	27.5	2.4–3 kg	2.4 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.3 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 2nd month (summer)	27.3	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.2 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 3rd month (summer)	26.5	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.15 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 4th month (summer)	25.5	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 5th month (summer)	24.5	2.4–3 kg	2.5 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 6th month (summer)	23.6	2.4–3 kg	2.4 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 1st month (winter)	30.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.3 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 2nd month (winter)	30	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.2 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 3rd month (winter)	29.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.15 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 4th month (winter)	28.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 5th month (winter)	27.2	2.7–3.1 kg	2.8 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 6th month (winter)	26.3	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) grazing + high protein balancer

The table includes estimated dry matter intakes and practical dietary recommendations. DE values assume a dry matter content of 90% unless otherwise stated, foodstuffs such as haylage should be evaluated for DE levels per kg as fed and if unsure forage analysis is recommended.

Forage balancer refers to a concentrated pellet vitamin, mineral and protein supplement which does not act as a significant source of energy and which is designed to balance a forage only diet.

High protein balancer – as above but with a higher protein specification which is more suited to pregnant/lactating/growing donkeys.

MONITORING YOUR DONKEY'S QUALITY OF LIFE



THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

Name of donkey:

Date:

Heart girth measurement (refer to nomogram):

Feeding	Yes	No	Comments
Change in diet			
Enthusiastic to eat			
Dropping food			
Choking on food			
Drooling			
Behaviour	Yes	No	Comments
Alert (frequently moving ears or is head and ear carriage lower)			
Responsive			
Interacting with friends			
Lying down more			
Lying down less			
Difficulty in getting up			
Difficulty getting down			
Enjoying a daily roll			
Locomotion	Yes	No	Comments
Walking and trotting easily			
Turning without difficulty			
Hooves same shape and size			
Walking as much as before			
A bit slower/pottery/taking shorter strides			
Using all of the paddock			
Enjoying walks			
Breathing	Yes	No	Comments
Breathing with ease			
Carrying out normal activities without getting out of breath or exhibiting flared nostrils			
Laboured or noisy breathing			
General	Yes	No	Comments
Any lumps			
Bad breath			
Any eye discharge			
Any nasal discharge			
Passing faeces normally			
Wounds on hocks/knees - indicates difficulty rising			

For more information please watch the video Growing Old Gracefully online: thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/for-professionals









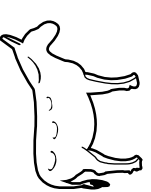

If you need further advice or information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01395 578222 or by email vets@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

DONKEY BODY CONDITION SCORE CHART



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Accurate Body condition scoring is a hands-on process for feeling the amount of muscle and fat that are covering the donkey's bones. Using this chart as a guide, feel the coverage over the bones in five specific areas listed below. Fat deposits may be unevenly distributed especially over the neck and hindquarters. Some resistant fat deposits may be retained in the event of weight loss or may calcify (harden). Careful assessment of all areas should be made and combined, to give an overall score. When deciding on the correct course of action following condition scoring, you might have to take into consideration the age of the donkey and any veterinary conditions they have. Aged donkeys can be hard to condition score due to lack of muscle bulk and tone giving thin appearance dorsally with dropped belly ventrally, while overall condition may be reasonable. If in doubt, get advice from your vet.

Condition score	Neck and shoulders	Withers	Ribs and belly	Back and loins	Hindquarters
1. Poor (very thin)  	Neck thin, all bones easily felt. Neck meets shoulder abruptly, shoulder bones felt easily, angular.	Dorsal spine and withers prominent and easily felt.	Ribs can be seen from a distance and felt with ease. Belly tucked up.	Backbone prominent, can feel dorsal and transverse processes easily.	Hip bones visible and felt easily (dock and pin bones). Little muscle cover. May be cavity under tail.
2. Moderate (underweight)  	Some muscle development overlying bones. Slight step where neck meets shoulders.	Some cover over dorsal withers, spinous processes felt but not prominent.	Ribs not visible but can be felt with ease.	Dorsal and transverse processes felt with light pressure. Poor muscle development either side of midline.	Poor muscle cover on hindquarters, hip bones felt with ease.
3. Ideal  	Good muscle development, bones felt under light cover of muscle/fat. Neck flows smoothly into shoulder, which is rounded.	Good cover of muscle/ fat over dorsal spinous processes, withers flow smoothly into back.	Ribs just covered by light layer of fat/muscle, ribs can be felt with light pressure. Belly firm with good muscle tone and flattish outline.	Can feel individual spinous or transverse processes with pressure. Muscle development either side of midline is good.	Good muscle cover over hindquarters, hip bones rounded in appearance, can be felt with light pressure.
4. Overweight (fat)  	Neck thick, crest hard, shoulder covered in even fat layer.	Withers broad, bones felt with pressure.	Ribs dorsally only felt with firm pressure, ventral ribs may be felt more easily. Belly over developed.	Can only feel dorsal and transverse processes with firm pressure. May have slight crease along midline.	Hindquarters rounded, bones felt only with pressure. Fat deposits evenly placed.
5. Obese (very fat)  	Neck thick, crest bulging with fat and may fall to one side. Shoulder rounded and bulging with fat.	Withers broad, bones felt with firm pressure.	Large, often uneven fat deposits covering dorsal and possibly ventral aspect of ribs. Ribs not palpable dorsally. Belly pendulous in depth and width.	Back broad, difficult to feel individual spinous or transverse processes. More prominent crease along mid line fat pads on either side. Crease along midline bulging fat either side.	Cannot feel hip bones, fat may overhang either side of tail head, fat often uneven and bulging.