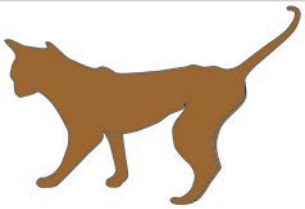
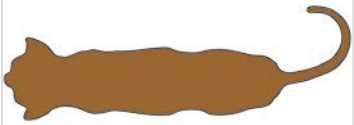
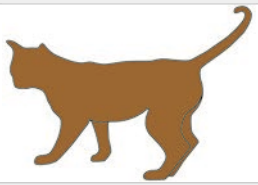
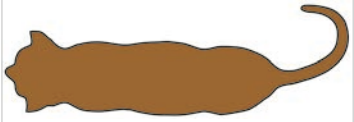
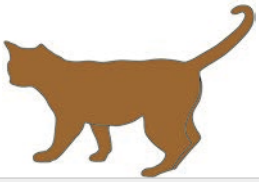
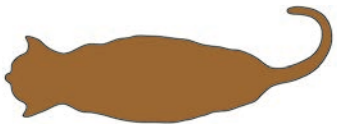
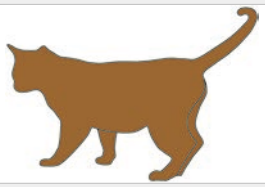
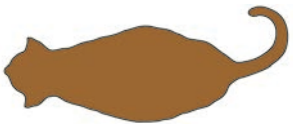
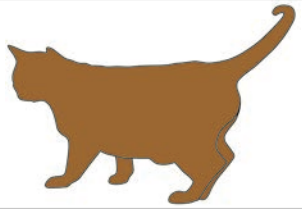
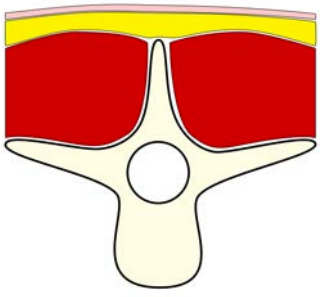
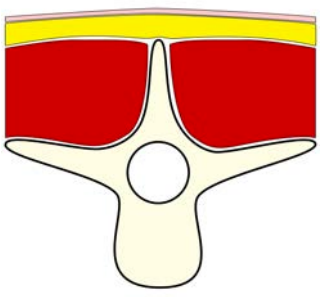
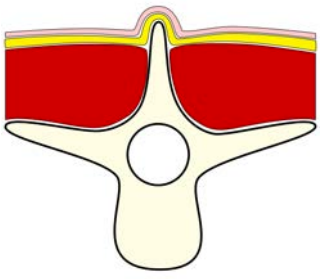
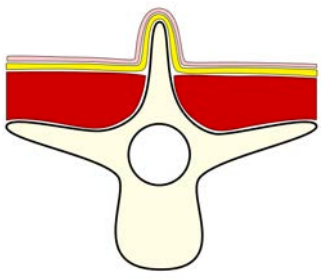
Body and Muscle Condition Scores

Body Condition Score (recommended 9 point scale):

1	Increasingly thin	Ribs, spine, and pelvis: • Visible (especially shorthair cats) • Pronounced, very easy to palpate • No fat covering Marked abdominal tuck Loss of body muscle		
2		Between 1 and 3		
3		Ribs, spine and pelvis: • Easily palpated • Very little fat covering Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible Obvious waist behind ribs		
4		Between 3 and 5		
5	Ideal	Ribs and spine: • Palpable but not visible • Slight (but not excess) fat cover Waist and abdominal tuck present Minimal abdominal fat pad		
6	Increasingly fat	Between 5 and 7		
7		Ribs and spine: • Not easy to palpate • Moderate fat covering Little or no waist present Rounding of abdomen		
8		Between 7 and 9		
9		Ribs and spine: • Hard to palpate • Marked fat cover Fat over other body areas No waist, marked abdominal fat Marked inguinal fat pad		

Muscle Condition Score:

1. Normal	2. Mild loss	3. Moderate loss	4. Marked loss
Determination of MCS is based on palpation and subjective assessment of the muscle mass over the lumbar spine, head and scapulae			
			

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