








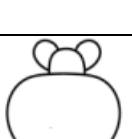
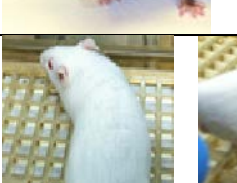

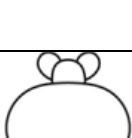




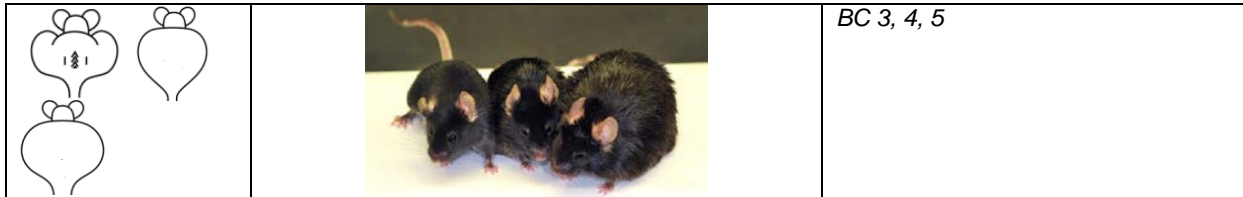
**Body Condition Scoring (BCS)
Of Mice
IACUC Standard Procedure
Effective Date: May 2016**

Description of procedure:

Scoring the body condition of rodents is a non-invasive method for assessing health and establishing endpoints for adults where body weight is not a viable monitoring tool, such as with tumor models, ascites production and pregnancy, or young growing animals. Body condition scores (BCS) range from 1 (emaciation) to 5 (obesity). An anticipated BCS of 2 (under conditioned) or lower requires justification in the protocol. Scores are determined by frequent visual and hands-on examination of each animal. The hands-on evaluation is done by gently holding the mouse by the base of the tail and passing a finger over the sacroiliac bones. Match the findings to the descriptions and diagrams provided to determine a score.

Body Condition Score Chart

			<p>BC 1 <i>Mouse is emaciated</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skeletal structure extremely prominent; little or no flesh cover • Vertebrae distinctly segmented
			<p>BC 2 <i>Mouse is under conditioned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segmentation of vertebral column evident • Dorsal pelvic bones are readily palpable
			<p>BC 3 <i>Mouse is well-conditioned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertebrae and dorsal pelvis not prominent; palpable with slight pressure
			<p>BC 4 <i>Mouse is over conditioned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spine is a continuous column • Vertebrae palpable only with firm pressure
			<p>BC 5 <i>Mouse is obese</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouse is smooth and bulky • Bone structure disappears under flesh and subcutaneous fat



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

Reference used:

1 Mollie H. Lillma-Cullere

2 Charmain J Foltz

Body Condition Scoring: A Rapid and Accurate Method for Assessing Health Status in Mice
Lab. Animal Science; Vol 49 (3) 319-323, 1999