
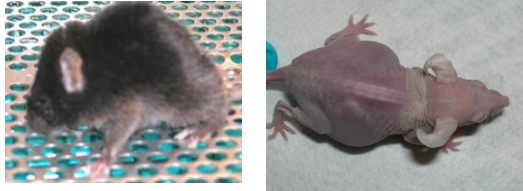

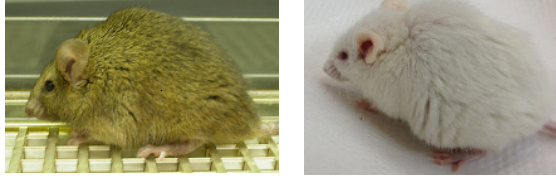



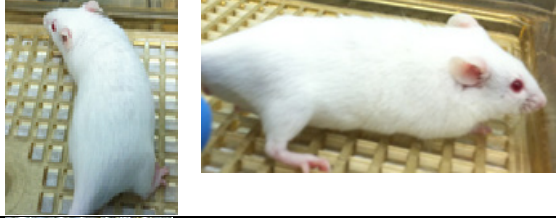
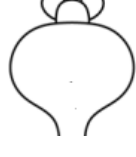
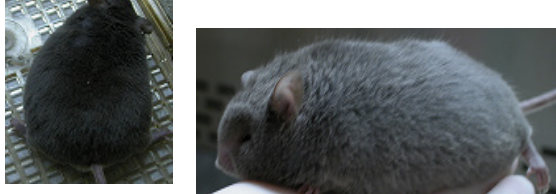
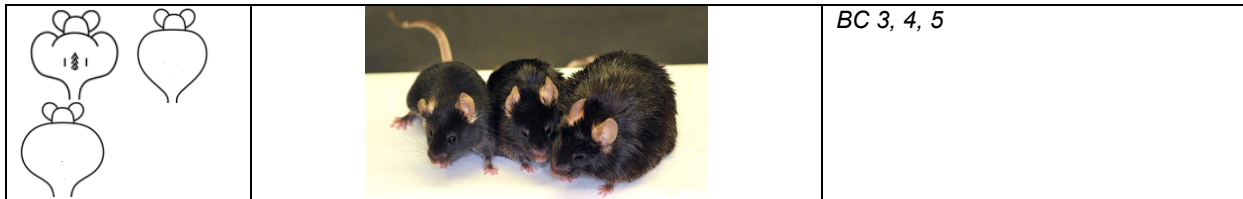


**Description of procedure:**

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



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

**Reference used:**

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