

# Polar Bear Score Card: A Standardized Fatness Index

1



**SKINNY**

Skinny emaciated appearance, vertebrae, ribs, and hip bones externally visible without palpation, no fat palpable between skin and muscle over the dorsal body, hips, or lower rump.

2



**THIN**

Thin, vertebrae and hip bones (but not ribs) partially visible, easily palpable under the skin, little/no fat between skin and muscle over the back, small amounts of fat detectable on lower rump.

3



**AVERAGE**

Normal healthy appearance, vertebrae/hip bones not visible, upper 1/3 to 1/2 of the spinal column can be felt under the skin, detectable layer of fat between skin and muscle over rear half of body, thickening slightly but detectably over lower rump.

4



**FAT**

Fat, vertebrae/hip bones not visible, palpation reveals fat deposited over upper vertebrae, hip bones difficult to feel through fat, fat thick over rump, a hand rubbed above the rump will initiate ripples in the skin over the fat layer.

5



**OBESE**

Obese, vertebrae/hip bones undetectable by palpation, thick layer of fat is apparent between skin and muscle 2/3 of the way up the back & over rump, a hand rubbed on lower back above rump sets off waves of rolling fat, possibly jiggling.

**Condition:** This is a subjective determination of bear's body condition based on assessment of body fat: