Body Condition Scoring (BCS) for Mice
Loyola University Chicago
Comparative Medicine

**BC 1**
**Mouse is emaciated**
- Skeletal structure extremely prominent; little or no flesh cover.
- Vertebrate distinctly segmented.

**BC 2**
**Mouse is under conditioned**
- Segmentation of vertebral column evident.
- Dorsal pelvic bones are readily palpable.

**BC 3**
**Mouse is well conditioned**
- Vertebrae and dorsal pelvis not prominent; palpable with slight pressure.

**BC 4**
**Mouse is over conditioned**
- Spine is a continuous column.
- Vertebrae palpable only with firm pressure.

**BC 5**
**Mouse is obese**
- Mouse is smooth and bulky.
- Bone structure disappears under flesh and subcutaneous fat.

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