



Using your Weight Tape

Why is it necessary to estimate the weight of your donkey?

- ▶ To ensure that the correct dose of wormers and veterinary drugs are given.
- ▶ To monitor the correct nutrition.
- ▶ To monitor the weight when transporting your donkey in a horsebox or trailer.
- ▶ Essential for working, driven, ridden and showing donkeys.

About the GSF Donkey Weight Tape

This Donkey Weight Tape has been scientifically researched over many years using over 1,000 donkeys both from the UK and Kenya, with the invaluable help of the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon and initially Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell.

It was found that a weigh tape specifically for donkeys aged 4 years and over was required when estimating the weight of a donkey. Tapes for horses and ponies skewed the results and were not accurate enough. This was mainly due to differences in digestion, metabolism and weight distribution.

For more information visit
www.donkeyweighttape.com



Instructions: How to use the Donkey Weight Tape accurately



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Fig 1. Measure to the withers

1. Stand the donkey on flat level ground with all four feet square.
2. Place your toe on the height side of the tape where instructed and read off the height in centimetres by sight. To be the most accurate, align the top of the tape at the withers – see Fig 1.

3. There are three height groups of donkeys used for this tape and you need to decide which height group your donkey is in.
 - (i) Under 95cm at the withers (small donkeys and miniatures)
 - (ii) Between 95cm and 115cm at the withers (standard donkeys)
 - (iii) Over 115cm at the withers (large donkeys)



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Fig 2. Measure heart girth in centimeters

4. Turn the tape measure over and place the beginning of the tape around the heart girth of the donkey, ie over the lowest part of the withers and around the girth by the elbow – see Fig 2.



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Fig 3. Read off weight in kilograms

5. Read off the estimation of weight in Kilograms. This depends upon which height group the donkey is in – see Fig 3.

To make the donkey weigh tape as accurate as possible, note the following points.

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| <p>(i) Every time you measure your donkey, try to measure him at the same time of day.</p> <p>During the day the donkey can gain or lose weight due to hydration, the amount of feed the donkey has consumed, his ability to break down the food, his exercise programme, the climate and the donkey's medical condition.</p> | <p>(iv) The best weight estimation is when the donkey has a body condition score (bcs) of 3.</p> <p>Donkeys are scored from 0 to 5.</p> <p>0 - Thin / starving
3 - Good
5 - Obese</p> <p>If the donkey is thinner than 3 or fatter than a bcs of 3, then average the weight of either the lower or higher weight dependent on the bcs.</p> | <p>(vi) If the donkey (usually an older donkey) has an unusually large umbilical girth circumference, then these donkeys will weigh heavier than one of a normal circumference.</p> <p>Therefore, this must also be taken into account and an increased estimated weight should be used.</p> <p>These donkeys can also have a bcs of 3.</p> |
| <p>(ii) Make sure that the tape is in the correct position—see Fig 1.2 & 3.</p> <p>(iii) Do not read off the weight estimation whilst leaving your hand underneath the tape.</p> | <p>(v) Use for donkeys aged 4 years and over.</p> | |