

FECAL SCORING



SCORE 1

Very hard and dry; often expelled as individual pellets; requires much effort to expel from body; no residue left on ground when picked up.



SCORE 2

Firm, but not hard; pliable; segmented in appearance; little or no residue on ground when picked up.



SCORE 3

Log-shaped; little or no visible segmentation; moist surface; leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up.



SCORE 4

Very moist, soggy; log-shaped; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



SCORE 5

Very moist, but has a distinct shape; piles rather than distinct logs; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



SCORE 6

Has texture, but no defined shape; present as piles or spots; leaves residue when picked up.



SCORE 7

Watery; no texture; flat puddles.

Fecal consistency is primarily a function of the amount of moisture in the stool and can be used to identify changes in colonic health and other problems. Ideally, in a healthy animal, stools should be firm but not hard, pliable and segmented, and easy to pick up (Score 2).

EXAMINATION OF AN ENTIRE STOOL ALONG WITH FECAL SCORING PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO THE FUNCTION OF THE INTESTINAL TRACT AND A BASELINE FOR ASSESSING IMPROVEMENT.