

CrocBSI – Crocodilian Body Score Index

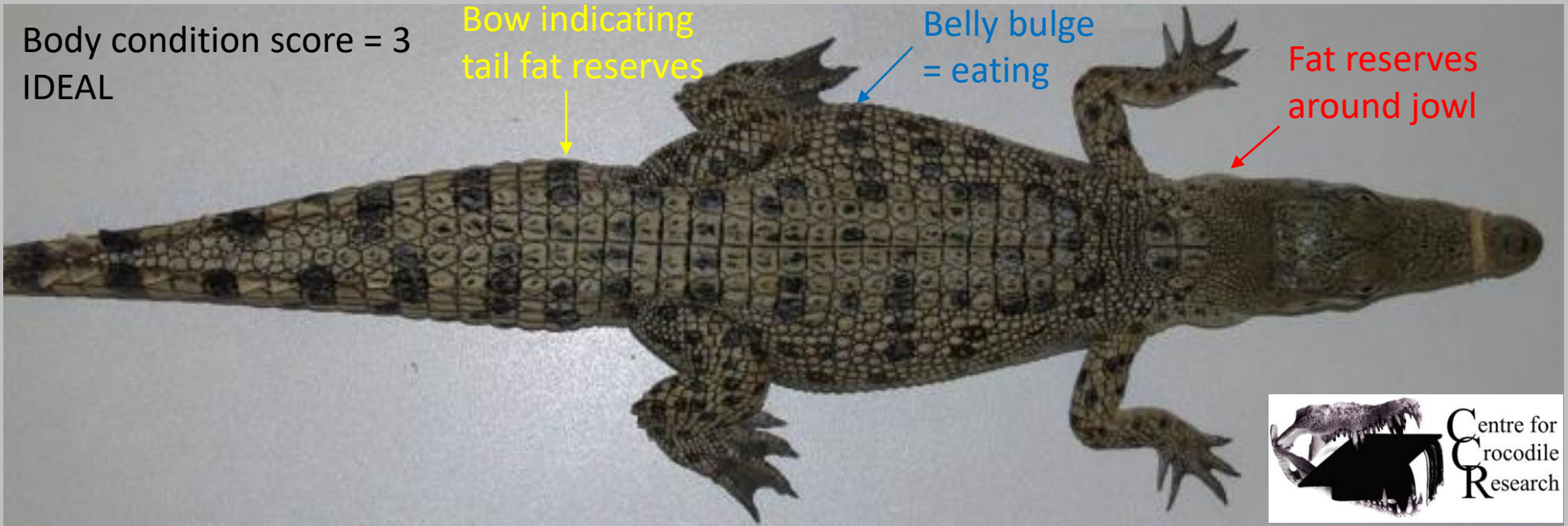
Score	Body Condition	Description	Action
1	Very poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No muscle or fat around the jowl or base of tail (wasting) Neck tendons visible Head can be disproportionately larger than body Belly is sunken (lack of food intake) Spine may be visible but not always 	<p>Probable causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> runting in young stock severe undernourishment poor husbandry and management <p>Minimise stress and remove from dominant animals however, unlikely to recover at this stage. Euthanasia may be required.</p>
2	Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight muscle tone and fat reserves around neck and base of tail Animal is eating, appears bright and alert (responsive to stimuli) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review management and husbandry (food (quality and quantity), temperature profile, water quality, hygiene and disease management, provision of hides) to minimise stress Veterinary advice may be required Remove from dominant animals Target feed
3	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight bulge of fat around jowls Outwardly bowed tail indicating adequate muscle tone and fat reserves. Animal obviously eating with stomach bulge also indicating reserves within internal fat body on non-feed days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required Monitoring and early detection of body score changes is crucial to ensuring that crocodilian does not drop to a body score of 2
4	Very Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exaggeration of 3 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required Consider restricting food but not essential
5	Obese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive fat reserves at jowl and tail as well as always looking enlarged around the belly area. Torso may even appear “rectangular”. Stretching of inter-scalar area indicates overly fat crocodilian Often a captive problem from being over fed without proportional energy expenditure to maintain weight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrict food intake through either reducing portions offered and/or feeding frequency Encourage exercise or environmental enrichment where appropriate (e.g. swimming to the other side of water for food, reward for voice cue etc.) Offer alternative low nutritional food stuffs such as apples soaked in myoglobin, empty sausage casings.

Body condition score = 3
IDEAL

Bow indicating
tail fat reserves

Belly bulge
= eating

Fat reserves
around jowl



Body condition score = 1

[This animal is a runt which is a genetic condition with a heritability of 71% (Isberg et al. 2009). He was the same age as the crocodile above and had been given access to the same resources.]

No tail fat
reserves

Sunken stomach
area = not eating

No fat reserves and
neck tendons showing

