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The Feline Body Mass Index™

- a simple measure of body fat content in cats

The Feline Body Mass Index™ (FBMI™), as it has become known, now offers researchers and clinicians alike an invaluable tool with which to make simple yet reliable assessments of body fat content in cats. Its application in clinical studies will help define the relationship between body fat content and risk of disease. This, in turn, will allow veterinarians to better identify cats at risk of obesity-related conditions, as well as providing a tool with which to monitor the effects of dietary and exercise programmes on body fat content.

The equation used rib cage circumference and the lower hindlimb measurement (in cm)

$$\text{Percentage body fat} = \frac{\left(\frac{\text{rib cage}}{0.7062}\right) - \text{LIM}}{0.9156} - \text{LIM}$$

Figure 1 Relationship between percentage body fat as predicted by the Feline Body Mass Index™ and measured by dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (R2=85%, p<0.0001).



Figure 2a The length of the lower leg (LIM) from the middle of the patella.



Figure 2b Measurement of rib cage circumference.

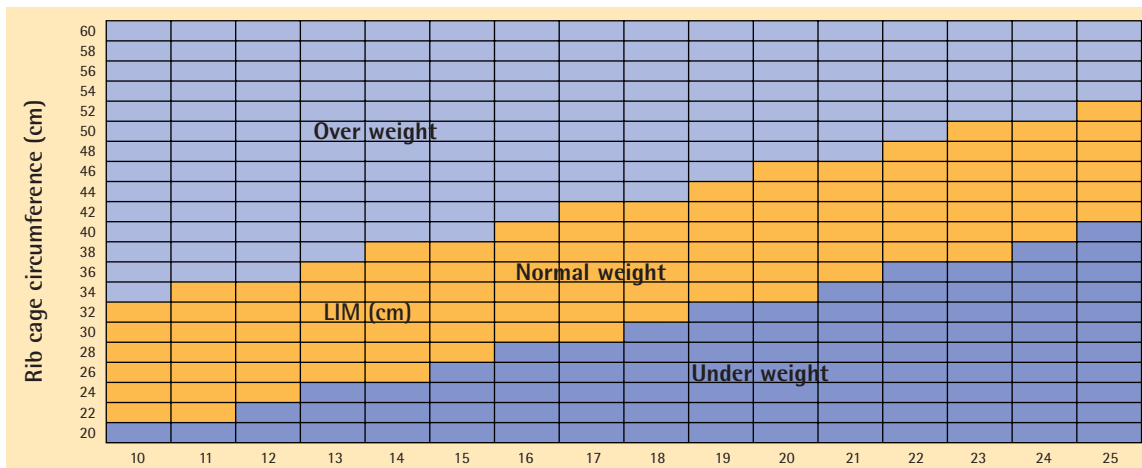


Figure 3 Feline Body Mass Index™ (FBMI™)