Body condition score (BCS) in pugs

BCS 3
Ribs and tops of lumbar vertebrae visible with no palpable fat. Pelvic bones prominent.

BCS 4
Ribs covered by minimal fat and easily palpable. Marked abdominal tuck and waist.

BCS 5
Ribs covered by some fat but easily palpable. Waist easily noted from top.

BCS 6
Ribs covered by some fat and only palpable when pressing. Waist is discernible but not prominent.

BCS 7
Ribs covered by heavy fat and palpable with difficulty. Waist is absent and tuck may or may not be present.

BCS 8
Ribs not palpable. Waist and tuck are absent. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar and neck.

BCS 9
Ribs not palpable. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar, neck. Obvious abdomen rounding.
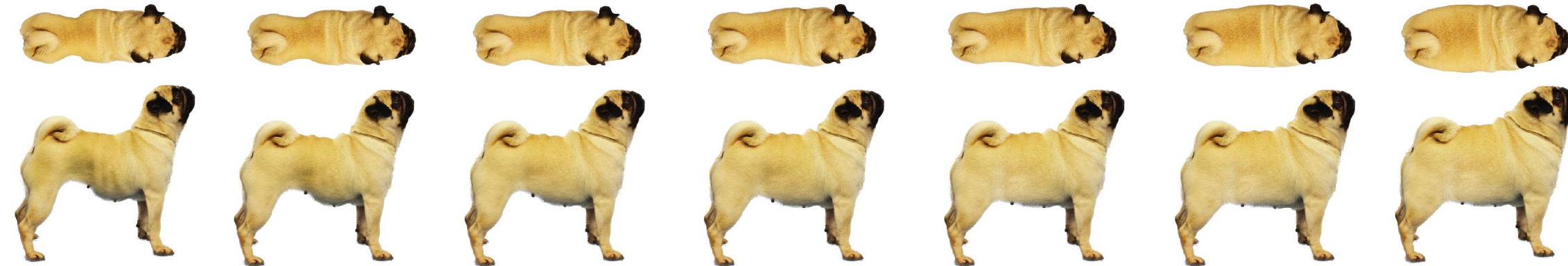
Too thin ⟶ *Obese*

MALE

BCS 7, 8 and 9 are at increased risk of breathing difficulties

FEMALE

A brief note on condition scoring Pugs

This breed is sometimes tricky to classify according to the standard chart. Specifically:

> Skin wrinkles around the neck can hide fat deposits or seem like fat when they are not. Palpate carefully to work out how much subcutaneous fat there is.

> This breed tends to lay down fat at the front of the ribcage. Palpate there to test whether you can feel the ribs.