Fecal consistency is primarily a function of moisture in stool and can be used to identify changes in colon health and other problems. In a healthy dog or cat, stools ideally should be firm but not hard, pliable, segmented and easy to pick up (Score 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1     | ![Specimen 1](image1) | - Very hard and dry  
- Often expelled as individual pellets  
- Requires much effort to expel from the body  
- Leaves no surface residue when picked up |
| 2     | ![Specimen 2](image2) | - Firm, but not hard; pliable  
- Segmented appearance  
- Leaves little or no surface residue when picked up |
| 3     | ![Specimen 3](image3) | - Log shaped; moist surface  
- Little or no visible segmentation  
- Leaves surface residue, but holds form when picked up |
| 4     | ![Specimen 4](image4) | - Very moist and soggy  
- Log shaped  
- Leaves surface residue and loses form when picked up |
| 5     | ![Specimen 5](image5) | - Very moist, but has a distinct shape  
- Present in piles rather than logs  
- Leaves surface residue and loses form when picked up |
| 6     | ![Specimen 6](image6) | - Has texture, but no defined shape  
- Present as piles or spots  
- Leaves surface residue when picked up |
| 7     | ![Specimen 7](image7) | - Watery  
- No texture  
- Present in flat puddles |