scrawny [scrawny scrawnier scrawniest] *BrE* ['skrɔ nji *NAmE* ['skrɔ nji adjective (scrawn·ier, scrawni·est)(disapproving) (of people or animals)

very thin in a way that is not attractive

Syn: [†]scraggy

· He had long scrawny fingers.

• There were a few scrawny chickens in the yard.

Word Origin:

mid 19th cent.: variant of dialect scranny; compare with archaic scrannel 'weak, feeble' (referring to sound).

scrawny

scrawiny /'skro ni\$ 'skro *H BrE* AmE adjective

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

[Date: 1800-1900; Origin: scranny 'thin' (1800-1900), probably from a Scandinavian language

a scrawny person or animal looks very thin and weak SYN skinny:

- a scrawny kid in jeans and a T-shirt
- a few scrawny hens

THESAURUS

person

- thin having little fat on your body: a tall, thin man

• slim thin in an attractive way: her slim figure | a slim woman in her fifties | Magazines are always full of advice about how to stay slim.

• slender *written* thin in an attractive and graceful way – used especially about parts of the body, and used especially about women: her long, slender legs | She is slender, with very fair hair.

- lean thin and looking healthy and fit: his lean body | He was lean and looked like a runner.
- skinny very thin in a way that is not attractive: a skinny teenager | Your arms are so skinny!
- slight written thin and delicate: a small, slight girl with big eyes
- scrawny /'skro ni\$ 'skro / very thin, small, and weak-looking: a scrawny kid in blue jeans
- underweight below the usual weight for someone of your height, and therefore too thin: He had no appetite and remained underweight.

• gaunt /go nt\$ go nt written very thin and pale, especially because of illness or continued worry: He looked gaunt and had not shaved for days.

• emaciated /ɪ'meɪʃieɪtəd, ɪ'meɪʃieɪtɪd, -si-/ *written* extremely thin and weak, because you are ill or not getting enough to eat: The tents were filled with emaciated refugees.

• **skeletal** *written* used about someone who is so thin that you can see the shape of their bones: The soldiers were shocked by the skeletal figures of the camp's prisoners.

• anorexic used about someone who is extremely thin because they have a mental illness that makes them stop eating: Her daughter is anorexic. | anorexic teenagers

scrawny

Freakuency Pack

12500 10855^{MCW}
15000 10559^{COCA}
RANGE: 11k SCRAWNY 591
scrawny 568
scrawnier 9
scrawniest 7
scrawniness 7
COCA 500k Unlemmatized
₅₁₅ 29620 ⁵⁶⁸ jj

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.