



HUMAN-MOOSE CONFLICTS

Moose account for approximately 600 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year. Moose feed on a wide variety of plants and can be attracted to backyard vegetation. Attacks on humans by moose are rare but can occur, especially when a female is protecting her offspring.

Given the sheer size and strength of these animals, moose are capable of inflicting serious injuries. Moose will attack dogs as they view them in the same category as their natural predator - the wolf. Keep your dog leashed if moose are in the area.

Perhaps the biggest threat that moose pose to human safety is through vehicle collisions. Serious collisions occur every year. Protect yourself by adjusting your speed in areas where moose are known to frequent, especially during the hours between dusk and dawn.



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The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

www.bccf.com

To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

1.877.952.7277

WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.



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photos by Peter Sulzle



MOOSE



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

Moose may show up in urban settings in search of food, especially in the winter months when natural food is scarce. It is important to ensure they do not become comfortable in your yard.

1. Do not feed moose. Feeding can lead to an artificial concentration of moose in town and elevates the chance of vehicle collisions and other conflicts.

2. Certain plants are more likely to attract moose (red-osier dogwood, red maple, willows). If moose frequent your neighbourhood, consider choosing less moose-attractive plants when landscaping.

3. Motion activated lights and sprinklers, if used randomly, help to dissuade moose from using your yard.

4. High fencing or electric fencing may help keep moose away from your yard and garden. Likewise, chicken wire caging may help protect individual trees and shrubs from moose damage.

5. Moose and dogs don't mix. Dogs may provoke a moose into an attack and should be kept inside or on a leash in areas with high moose activity to avoid conflicts.

! MOOSE SAFETY

Moose are not normally aggressive but can be very dangerous if approached or startled, especially females with calves. Vehicle collisions are also a major safety concern associated with moose.

Never approach a moose. Give the animals a wide berth and ensure they have an escape route. If a moose does charge you, getting inside a nearby building or car is the safest option, but hiding behind a large tree or other solid object may effectively block the charge. Drive cautiously, scanning for moose along roadsides, especially between dusk and dawn to avoid collisions.

Call the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277 to report any moose acting aggressively.



Moose are the largest members of the deer family as well as the tallest land mammals in North America. Moose can be found in wetlands, forest habitats and willow thickets.

Moose are distinguished from other deer by their large size, prominent shoulder hump, bulbous nose and a characteristic flap of skin called a 'bell' or 'dewlap' below the chin. Male moose also grow massive palmate (palm-shaped) antlers that can grow to a width of 1.8 metres. These antlers are shed every year between late December and early January.

Moose are herbivores and feed on a wide variety of vegetation in the summer including the twigs, buds and leaves of shrubs and trees, as well as terrestrial and aquatic plants. In winter, when food is restricted to mostly twigs and bark, moose may lose up to one quarter of their body weight. Moose pack on extra weight in the fall to survive this annual loss.

In times of scarce natural food and in winter months, moose may move into urban settings to feed on backyard vegetation. Given their size and strength, moose can be very dangerous and should never be approached. Give moose plenty of space and ensure they always have an escape route.



MOOSE FACTS:

- Adult male moose, called bulls, can weigh between 400 to 600 kg and grow to a height of over 2 m at the shoulder. Females, called cows, tend to be smaller, ranging in weight from 300 to 500 kg.
- Moose may live up to 20 years in the wild, but the average lifespan ranges between 10 to 15 years.
- Bulls and cows come together during the breeding season or 'rut' between mid-September and mid-October. Both sexes become vocal during this time as they actively seek a mate.
- Bulls use their antlers for both display and fighting in order to assert dominance and secure breeding privileges with the cows.
- Cow moose give birth to one or two calves in May or June. In years when food is plentiful, the rate of twins increases.
- Moose calves mature quickly and can reach a weight of 100 kg in six months.
- Moose are surprisingly strong swimmers and can even submerge themselves completely to feed on aquatic plants.
- Long legs and large cloven hooves help moose to travel through deep snow and soft mud.
- Moose have keen senses of hearing and smell.
- Moose are crepuscular, meaning they are most active during the periods around dawn and dusk.



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