Identifying a legal caribou

In all hunts limited to one sex, evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat.



Bull

- 1. The best method to identify bulls is to determine the presence of a penis sheath. On young bulls (1- to 3-yearsold) the sex organs are less apparent. The white rump patch is narrower on bulls than cows.
- 2. Antlers are well developed (3+ feet) in mature bulls. Young bulls typically have smaller antlers with relatively small brow tine/shovel development, and often cannot be distinguished from a cow using antler development alone.
- **3.** Bull caribou have antlers from May through part of the winter. The oldest bulls drop antlers first, sometimes as early as November, while young bulls (yearlings and 2-year-olds) may not drop their antlers until April.



vulva patch, peeing backward = cow caribou

Cow

- 1. The vaginal opening (the lower and larger of two dark oval areas) is apparent when viewed carefully from the rear. The white rump patch is wider on cows than bulls.
- 2. The antlers of cows are smaller than those of most bulls, with the exception of many yearling bulls and a small percentage of 2-year-old bulls.
- **3**. Most cow caribou have antlers from June through April of the following year.

Cows and young bulls may look alike when their tails are down.

Special meat salvage requirements:

Edible meat must be salvaged. In addition, for caribou taken before October 1:

- In Units 9B, and 17-18, the edible meat of the **front quarters** and **hindquarters** must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption (see page 22).
- In Units 13, 19, 21A, 21E, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, and 25D the edible meat of the **front quarters**, **hindquarters**, and **ribs** must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption (see page 22).

Additional salvage requirements for Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest hunts exist, see the CSH hunt conditions online at <u>hunt.alaska.gov</u>.

Caribou Hunters: Know Your Targets! Be sure to check out the caribou identification guide online at: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=caribouhunting.resources



How to distinguish between bull and cow caribou in the field

