

Staying Safe in Moose Country



Moose are largest member of the Cervidae (deer) family and are common in both urban and wild areas throughout the state, and often cross paths with humans. **Never approach a moose!**

Moose can be dangerous when:

- **Harassed by people or traffic.** Do not approach or attempt to chase away moose.
- **Harassed by dogs.** Moose view dogs as predators and will sometimes go out of their way to kick a dog. Protect moose and your dog by keeping pets leashed.
- **Stressed during winter.** Moose will defend their space, especially in winter when snow is deep and food is scarce.

Moose may act aggressively

- **Cow moose with young calves** are very protective and will attack humans who come too close. Do not walk between a cow moose and its calves.
- **During the fall rut** (mating season) from September through October, bull moose may be more aggressive toward humans.
- **Injured moose** are more likely to be stressed and aggressive.

Moose show signs of stress. You are too close if:

- It stops or changes its current behavior.
- Puts its ears back, licks its lips, or if its neck hair is raised.
- A moose moving toward you is a warning—keep away!

How to respond to a moose encounter

- Give moose lots of space.
- Unlike with bears, **it is okay to run from a moose.**
- Get behind something solid, such as a tree or vehicle.
- If it knocks you down, curl up in a ball, protect your head with your hands, and hold still.

ADF&G complies with Title II of ADA of 1990. This is available in alternative formats. If you need assistance, please contact us at (907) 465-6078.



Living in Moose Country

Share the trail

Moose often seek easier travel on roads, sidewalks, and trails.

- Be patient and wait from a distance for the moose to move away.
- Do not approach a moose, especially if it's only escape route is in your direction.
- If you must get by, try to keep a large tree, snow berm, vehicle, building, or fence between you and the moose.
- High-speed activities like mountain biking increase your risk of a close encounter. Avoid areas with poor visibility and blind corners.

Secure attractants: gardens and livestock feed

It is illegal—and dangerous—to intentionally or negligently feed moose. Feeding moose may cause illness or aggression.

- Protect shrubs, trees, vegetables and other plants that may attract moose with a sturdy 8- to 10-foot fence.
- Secure livestock feed such as hay or oats within a sturdy enclosure.
- Choose plants responsibly: European Bird Cherry and Chokecherry trees are invasive in Alaska and can be toxic to moose and other ruminant animals.

“Orphaned” animals: Leave them alone!

Most lone moose calves are not abandoned. Often the mother is nearby and will return once you have left the area.

- Do not attempt to feed or pick up a calf.
- Contact your local ADF&G office if you observe a lone calf for an extended period of time.

Driving in moose country

Moose-vehicle collisions are dangerous for people and moose.

- **Look out** for moose on roads, especially in winter when moose-vehicle collisions are most common.
- **Use hazard lights** to alert other drivers when you see moose near the road.

Sick, injured, and dead moose

Wild animals can carry diseases that may spread to humans and pets or livestock.

Contact an ADF&G office if you find a sick, injured, or dead animal, or submit a report to wildlifeencounters.adfg.alaska.gov.

For more information, visit our website:

adfg.alaska.gov



©2026 ADF&G