



Moose

National Wildlife Refuge System

- Moose are the largest members of the deer family. They are solitary animals, feeding on leaves, twigs (they especially like willows and aspens) and plants that grow in water.
- Moose live in tundra, willow thickets, swamps and northern forests across Alaska, much of Canada, New England and the Rocky Mountains. In Alaska, they frequently wander through backyards and driveways.
- Moose usually move slowly, but they can be quick when startled or angry.
- The moose's upper lip is very sensitive, able to grasp and tell the difference between fresh shoots and harder twigs. A moose can strip an entire branch of leaves in a single mouthful. In winter, moose eat shrubs and pinecones. Their large hooves act as snowshoes to support them in soft snow or marshy ground.
- Males may use their huge antlers in fights over a female – or cow - moose. These antlers can span more than six feet. The antlers fall off after the fall mating season, conserving energy for the winter. Each new set of antlers starts with a layer of skin called “velvet” and is fully developed in three to five months.



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