

State Animal



The moose, which is a large animal of the deer family, is the official state animal of Alaska. The male moose, often referred to as a bull, will grow large crescent-shaped antlers on the head upon reaching maturity. A female is commonly referred to as cow moose. Moose populate wooded and rural areas of Alaska and can even be found in some towns and villages. It was not until 1998 that this colossal mammal was designated the official state animal of Alaska.

Alaskan moose, who are the largest member of the deer family, are also the largest moose in the world. A well-fed bull (male) Alaskan moose can weigh upward of 1,600 pounds and have a hoof-to-shoulder height of seven feet! That's nearly 900 pounds heavier and a foot taller than the average elk. The only larger land mammal in North America and Europe is the Bison. Although moose are herbivores, they eat an enormous amount of food daily. In summer, a moose will happily munch on 73 pounds of food a day, and in winter they'll scrounge up 34 pounds of scrumptious greens.

Every winter, moose shed their antlers and then grow a new pair in the spring. Every year, the new pair of antlers grows to be even more impressive than the last: antler nubs eventually become spikes while spikes transform into the iconic paddles that make moose famous.

Moose are generally not aggressive animals, but they are incredibly dangerous when provoked. As a rule, never approach a moose. Bull moose may take any movement toward them as aggression and charge you. Female moose will not hesitate to engage you if she thinks you're threatening her young. The rule of thumb here is to avoid moose if you encounter them, by skirting out of their line of site and staying in vehicles or inside the house.