



WHY AM I NOT SEEING MOOSE?

Moose live only in areas that have seasonal snow cover, ie the four seasons. The animals prefer colder climates. They cannot tolerate temperatures above 80 degrees Fahrenheit for long because they cannot sweat, and the fermentation caused by their digestion creates a large amount of heat, according to Animal Diversity Web (ADW), a database maintained by the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology.

The normal body temperature of a Moose is 101-102 degrees F.

They have two methods of defense for when they get too hot, one is panting and the other is to seek shade. 68 degrees Fahrenheit seems to be the temperature that sends moose scurrying for shade; any temperatures above this causes heat stress amongst moose. Cold on the other hand seems to have no effect on moose. Even calf moose have been observed in temperatures as low as minus thirty degrees without seeking the shelter of the forest.

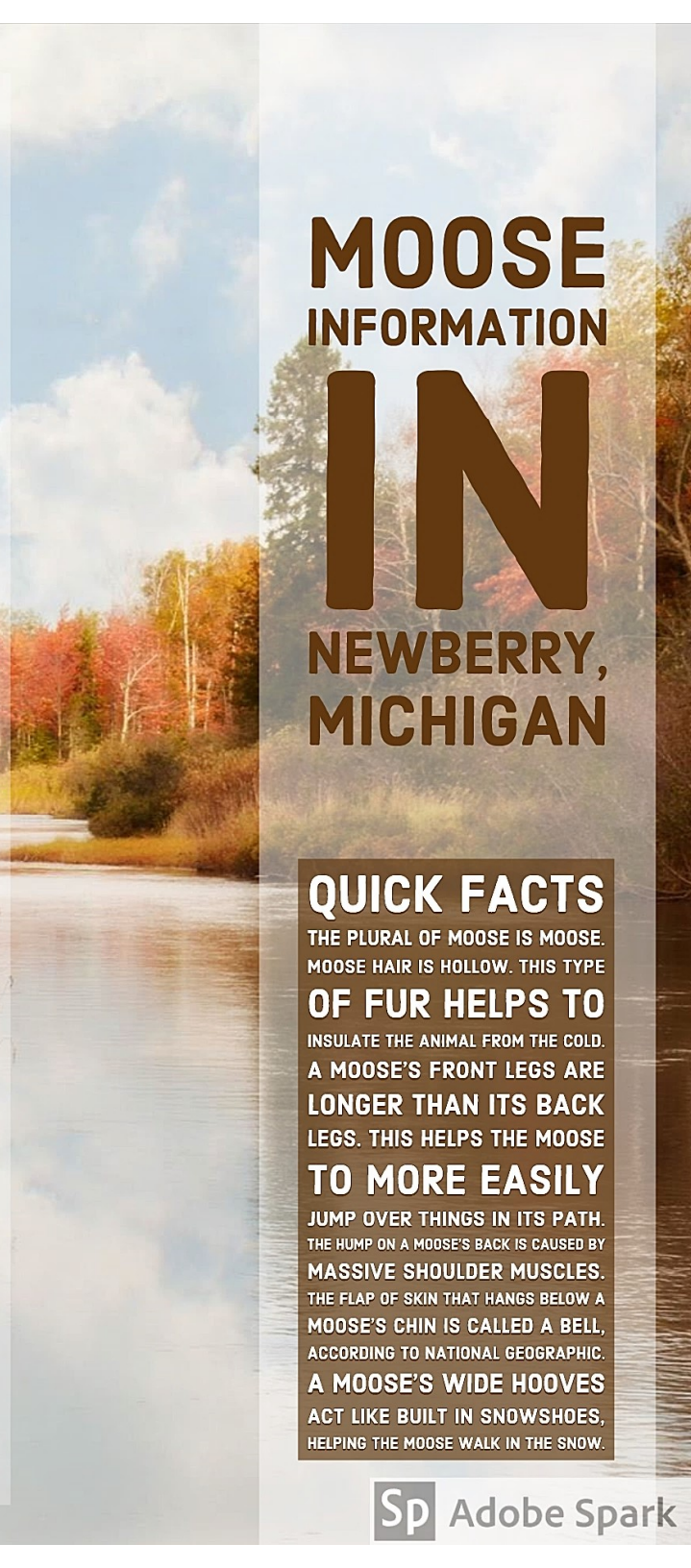
If you are moose sightseeing during warm temperatures, be prepared to go deep into the forest to find moose. They will be in the darkest and dampest moose habitat they can find in an effort to stay cool.

The moose is active in the day, but more especially at dawn and dusk, when the temperatures are much cooler than the height of the day. Moose tend to live in a small area, around 5 square miles. The easiest time to track a moose is after a light snowfall.

Moose are the least social animal according to the ADW. They are solitary creatures, and the only exception is during mating season. Mating season is usually early fall, when the air has turned cooler.

Moose spend their days resting and letting their food digest, finding new grazing, and staying cool during hot summer days.


LUCE COUNTY IS 908 SQUARE MILES [581,120 ACRES], WITH OVER 300,000 ACRES THAT IS PUBLIC ACCESS LAND, 15,000 ACRES OF INLAND LAKES, 658 MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS. 53 % OF LUCE COUNTY IS WATER. THERE ARE FEW ROADS THROUGH A GREAT PORTION OF THE COUNTY, SO TO SEE A MOOSE, ONE MUST BE WILLING TO GET OFF THE BEATEN PATH AND GO INTO THE BACK WOODS AND HIKE. THIS IS ONLY RECOMMENDED TO EXPERIENCED HIKERS TO DO. CELL PHONE SERVICE IS SPOTTY NORTH OF NEWBERRY, AND WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, AND ONE CAN FIND THEMSELVES LOST AND IN DIRE STRAITS VERY QUICKLY. MOOSE HAVE VERY FEW NATURAL PREDATORS, AND AS SUCH THEY ARE NOT AS KEEN TO DANGER AS MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEER FAMILY. THEIR SENSE OF SIGHT IS NOT AS GOOD AS OTHER DEER FAMILY MEMBERS, BUT THEY DO STILL HAVE A STRONG SENSES OF HEARING AND SMELL. IN SPRING, MOOSE ARE FOUND IN OPEN HABITATS, MEADOWS, FIELDS, WHERE THE GRAZING IS PLENTIFUL. SPRING IS ALSO BIRTHING SEASON FOR MOOSE. THE SPRING TO SUMMER CHANGE OF SEASON SEE MOOSE MOVE INTO HABITAT CHARACTERIZED BY HEAVY FOREST COVER. IN FALL, MOOSE ARE AGAIN ASSOCIATED WITH HEAVY FOREST COVER, PERHAPS EVEN MORE SO THAN DURING SUMMER, AND EARLY FALL IS MOOSE MATING SEASON. EARLY WINTER PRODUCES A DRAMATIC SHIFT OF MOOSE INTO OPEN HABITATS. IN MID-WINTER AND LATE WINTER, MOOSE RETREAT TO HABITATS WITH HEAVY FOREST COVER. GENERALLY SPEAKING, DURING THE FALL SEASON YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A MUCH HIGHER SUCCESS RATE OF SEEING MOOSE IF YOU LOOK IN THE UNLOGGED AREAS. THIS MAY ENTAIL MOOSE CALLING, AND FINDING WETLANDS THAT ARE WITHIN OR BACK ONTO THE UNLOGGED AREAS WILL BE OF A GOOD HELP TOO. MOOSE WILL AVOID HUMAN CONTACT, IF AN AREA IS GETTING A LOT OF TRAFFIC WHETHER IT IS VEHICULAR OR BY FOOT, THEY WILL MOVE TO AREAS THAT ARE UNDISTURBED. TO BE CONSISTENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN SEEING A MOOSE YOU NEED TO FIND THESE SECLUDED AREAS OF MOOSE HABITAT.



MOOSE INFORMATION IN NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN

QUICK FACTS

THE PLURAL OF MOOSE IS MOOSE. MOOSE HAIR IS HOLLOW. THIS TYPE OF FUR HELPS TO INSULATE THE ANIMAL FROM THE COLD. A MOOSE'S FRONT LEGS ARE LONGER THAN ITS BACK LEGS. THIS HELPS THE MOOSE TO MORE EASILY JUMP OVER THINGS IN ITS PATH. THE HUMP ON A MOOSE'S BACK IS CAUSED BY MASSIVE SHOULDER MUSCLES. THE FLAP OF SKIN THAT HANGS BELOW A MOOSE'S CHIN IS CALLED A BELL, ACCORDING TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. A MOOSE'S WIDE HOOVES ACT LIKE BUILT IN SNOWSHOES, HELPING THE MOOSE WALK IN THE SNOW.



Moose have four-chambered stomachs, as do cows. They regurgitate partially digested food and “chew their cud”. Food is fermented in the first chamber, and nutrients are extracted in the next three. Unlike most hooved, domesticated animals, moose cannot digest hay, and feeding it to a moose can be fatal. The moose’s varied and complex diet is typically expensive for humans to provide, and free-range moose require a lot of forested acreage for sustainable survival, which is one of the main reasons moose have never been widely domesticated.

THE MOOSE IS THE LARGEST MEMBER OF THE DEER FAMILY AND THE TALLEST MAMMAL IN NORTH AMERICA. IT STANDS SIX FEET TALL FROM SHOULDERS TO FEET. FEMALES WEIGH BETWEEN 800 TO 1,300 POUNDS AND MALES WEIGH 1,200 TO 1,600 POUNDS. THE MOOSE HAS LONG, THICK, LIGHT BROWN TO DARK BROWN FUR.

MOOSE IS AN ALGONQUIN

TERM FOR “TWIG EATER.” THE MOOSE IS A BROWSER, A HERBIVORE. MOOSE ARE NOT GRAZING ANIMALS. IN WARM MONTHS IT EATS THE LEAVES, TWIGS AND BUDS OF HARDWOOD AND SOFTWOOD TREES AND SHRUBS. THEY SEEM TO PREFER WILLOWS AND ASPENS. IT ALSO FEEDS ON AQUATIC PLANTS FOR SODIUM LIKE WATER LILIES. IN THE WINTER THE MOOSE BROWSES ON WOODY PLANTS LIKE THE TWIGS AND BARK OF WILLOW, BALSAM, BIRCH, ASPEN AND DOGWOOD TREES.

IN NORTH AMERICA, THE MOOSE IS FOUND IN ALASKA, CANADA, THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, AND AS FAR SOUTH AS THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN COLORADO. BULL MOOSE OR MOOSE BULL IS THE NAME GIVEN TO MALE MOOSE, THE FEMALE MOOSE IS KNOWN AS COW MOOSE OR MOOSE COW, AND THEIR OFFSPRING IS CALLED AS CALF OR CALF MOOSE.

MALES AND FEMALES HAVE THE SAME HEIGHT (AROUND 4-6 FEET AT SHOULDERS), BUT DIFFERENT WEIGHT. DUE TO THEIR LARGE SIZE, THEY NEED TO EAT A LOT OF FOOD. THEIR STOMACHS MAY HOLD UP TO 112 POUNDS OF FOOD AT ONE TIME, WHICH IS ABOUT 9770 CALORIES PER DAY TO MAINTAIN THEIR BODY WEIGHT. THEY HAVE 32 TEETH IN TOTAL. THEIR FRONT TEETH ARE MISSING.

MOOSE ARE EXCELLENT SWIMMERS. THEY CAN

SWIM 6 MILES PER HOUR WITHOUT A BREAK FOR 2 HOURS. A MOOSE CAN DIVE UPTO 20 FEET UNDER WATER. THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SWIM WITHOUT STOPPING AT A STRETCH OF 10 MILES

AND CAN REMAIN SUBMERGED FOR 30 SECONDS.

A MOOSE CAN RUN WITH A SPEED OF 35 MILES PER HOUR. THEY CAN RUN NON-STOP FOR 15 MILES. PREGNANCY IN FEMALES LASTS ABOUT 8 MONTHS (231 DAYS) AND IT ENDS WITH ONE OR TWO CALVES. WITHIN THEIR FIRST DAY OF LIFE, CALVES CAN STAND UP ON THEIR OWN. THEY WEIGH ABOUT 35 POUNDS AT BIRTH, AND WILL GROW VERY QUICKLY. GAINING 2.2 POUNDS PER DAY WHILE THEY ARE NURSING. THEY STAY WITH THEIR MOTHER UNTIL NEXT YEAR. WHEN NEW CALVES WILL BE BORN. MOOSE LIVE 15-25 YEARS IN THE WILD AND 20-25 YEARS IN CAPTIVITY.

Antlers are heavy and large. They weigh 50-60 pounds and grow up to 6 feet in the width. Largest measured pair of antlers were 7 feet in width.

The main purpose of antlers are to attract females and to defeat other males during fight for their affection.

Moose are best known for their antlers. Only the bull moose have antlers from early spring to late autumn. Antlers will drop off before winter, but next year male moose will develop even bigger antlers. They are the fastest growing organ in moose.

The moose population is North America is estimated to be fewer than 1.5 million animals, with 1 million in Canada. Up to 200,000 live in Alaska.

The main predators of Moose in North America are wolves, black bears, grizzly bears, and humans. Wolves, black bears, and grizzly bears have been known to go after a full grown moose, but it is more likely they will go after a young calf, or a moose between the ages of 1 and 4. They will also scavenge after the moose has died.

Moose calves are not fully grown until they are 4 to 6 years of age, though many never make it to adulthood. Around 50 % of calves die due to bear or wolf attacks before they are 6 weeks old, according to the ADW. Once they are adults, they have a survival rate of up to 95%.

You would think it would make sense that the giant antlers of male moose are their most powerful weapons, however, their strong feet are used more effectively. A bull moose will charge, and during the rut their behavior is unpredictable. A cow with calves is extremely protective.

If a moose feels danger, it will not tolerate the threat. It will charge and stomp the offender with its hooves.

Moose also have serious threats from certain snails that carry a parasite called brain worm. Moose frequently ingest small snails while foraging in warm, shallow water. Brain worms cause neurological damage that can be fatal to a moose, but interestingly enough all other members of the deer family often carry brain worms but are unaffected by them.

Another serious threat that affect moose is actually a fatal disease that is passed onto moose by white-tailed deer. The illness is often referred to as “moose disease”.