

WILDLIFE SMART



Moose typically flee when threatened, but may become aggressive under certain circumstances.

COEXISTING WITH MOOSE

*Manitoba's moose (*Alces alces*) are magnificent creatures and thrilling to see, but they can be dangerous. There are things people can do to reduce the risk of conflicts with moose. This fact sheet offers some helpful advice to protect yourself, family, pets, and moose.*

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MOOSE

- Moose are large and powerful animals, and typically don't fear many things.
- While ordinarily not aggressive, moose can quickly become dangerous in certain situations.
- Depending upon their experience with people, moose may not fear people.
- Moose will generally flee when threatened, but may become aggressive under certain circumstances, including harassment by people, dogs, traffic, or when hungry and tired, especially during winter when they may be under more stress.
- Moose view dogs as potential predators and may choose to attack aggressively if a dog is present.
- Female moose are quick to aggressively defend their young.
- Bull moose can be quite aggressive and unpredictable during the fall mating season in September and October.
- When moose are on a road, driveway, trail, or lying in a yard, they are often trying to rest. When people repeatedly approach them or chase them away, the moose can become stressed and agitated.

- Be mindful of a moose's behaviour – if a moose reacts to your presence, you are too close.
- People can be hurt when moose charge, stomp and kick to defend themselves or their young.
- People can also be injured in vehicle-moose collisions.

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THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONFLICT

- Maintain awareness of your surroundings.
- Make noise in wilderness areas to avoid surprising moose or other wildlife.
- Do not feed moose. Feeding will increase risk for yourself and others in the area.
- Do not approach moose. Keep a minimum of 30 metres (three school bus lengths) away.
- Keep your dog on a leash and under control when walking it.
- Do not leave pets outside unattended.
- Teach children how to respond appropriately if they see a moose or other wildlife.
- If you see a moose lingering in a public area where children usually play, report the sighting to a conservation officer.
- Use caution when driving, especially at dawn, dusk and at night when moose may be attracted to mineral licks or vegetation along roadsides. Be extra vigilant in wildlife collision hotspots indicated by wildlife warning road signs. Learn more at www.mpi.mb.ca.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOOSE

Try to Avoid Moose

- Try to leave in the direction you came, or wait until the moose moves away.
- If you must get by the moose, give it a wide berth; try to keep a large tree, vehicle, building or fence between you and the moose.

Watch for Signs of Aggression that Could Indicate a Moose Plans to Charge

- raised hackles (the hair on the back of its neck)
- ears pinned back
- lowered head
- swaying back and forth
- snorting and licking its nose
- A moose that sees you and is walking toward you should be considered dangerous.
- A moose can move very quickly and charge without warning.

If a Moose Charges You

- Run away; they usually won't chase you very far.
- Get behind a large tree, building, vehicle or other large object.
- If you are knocked down, get up quickly. You are at greater risk of serious injury while on the ground.
- Report any aggressive moose encounters to a conservation officer as soon as possible.



Female moose are quick to aggressively defend their young.

For more information on reducing the risk of conflicts with moose and other wildlife, visit www.manitoba.ca/human-wildlife.

To report wildlife showing aggressive behaviour or that appears sick, injured, or orphaned, contact a conservation officer at the local district office or call the TIP line at 1-800-782-0076.