



Photo © Brent Huffman / Ultimate Ungulate

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Amazing Species: Moose



Geographical range



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The Moose (*Alces alces*) is the largest living deer species in the world. It stands at over two metres tall and weighs up to 600 kilogrammes. The antlers, which are grown only by males over a few months and are shed every year, can weigh an average of 20-23 kilogrammes in prime-aged bulls.

Moose are abundant across the Northern Hemisphere, in North America, Europe and Asia. These woodland herbivores are usually solitary, gathering only for mating. They also love wetlands and in some areas hold seasonal migrations, which can reach hundreds of kilometres, between habitats. Their hooves and long legs allow them to walk equally well in deep snow, marshes and ponds, and they also swim well. Unlike other deer species, Moose often give birth to twins and even, although rarely, to triplets.

The main threat to the Moose is destruction and fragmentation of its habitat. In particular, forestry and agricultural practices have reduced the areas that these animals rely on.

This species is protected internationally by the Bern Convention. It is also protected by national legislation in some areas and the population is actively managed in certain countries. Moose occur in a large number of protected areas across their range.