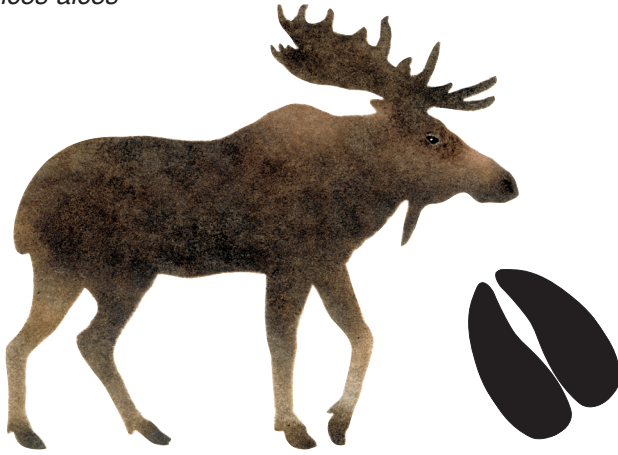




MOOSE

Alces alces



Appearance

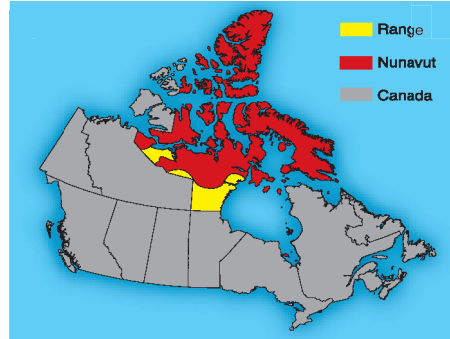
The moose is the largest member of the Family Cervidae, which also includes caribou and deer. It has a long head with a hanging, rounded nose and a strip of fur dangling from its neck that is called a dewlap. The moose's coat ranges from reddish brown to black. It has very long greyish legs with some white on the inside of the legs and stomach. Males have large, flat, shovel-shaped antlers with small points at the ends. These fall off every year and new ones grow to replace them. Females are usually between 2 and 2.6m long and 330 to 396kg. Males are usually between 2.3 to 2.8m long and 385 to 816kg.

Food And Feeding

Moose are browsers and in the winter, they feed on twigs, shrubs and the bark from saplings. In the summer they feed on leaves, large quantities of salt-rich water-plants, forbs, grasses and foliage. By the time spring arrives, the moose's salt reserves are very low.

Behaviour

Moose seem to be the least social of all the ungulates and are mostly solitary animals. They are shy and will generally flee from humans. However, mothers are very protective of their young and will charge at intruders to chase them off. In the mating season, bulls are dangerous. Moose show some activity during the day but are most active at dawn and dusk. During the summer, they are most active on calm cloudy days following a storm.



Range

In Nunavut the moose can be found in the southern portion of the Kivalliq region and in some parts of the south-western Kitikmeot region.

Habitat

Moose are found in wooded areas, swamps, lakeshores near forests, muskies, streams of great boreal forests and tundra areas.

Reproduction

During breeding season the female is quite vocal as she calls for a male. Mating takes place in the autumn and after a gestation period of between 7.5 to 9 months, usually 1 calf is born, although at times twins and very rarely triplets occur. The young stay with their mother for a year and go off on their own in the spring before she gives birth to the next litter. Females and males reach maturity at 2 to 3 years of age but males generally do not have the opportunity to mate before they are 5 or 6 years old. Moose can live up to 27 years.

Status Survival and Management

According to the Wild Species of Nunavut 2000 report, the current status of the moose is sensitive. Moose may live up to 27 years. Their main predators in Nunavut include humans and some carnivores. They are hunted throughout Canada and were reintroduced in parts of eastern Canada following extinction due to over hunting.

Did You Know?

Moose antlers are among the largest of all animal antlers; some may stretch to 1.8m and weigh almost 32kg.

