



As members of the deer family, adult bull moose have **antlers**—bony structures that are shed and regrown every year (as opposed to the permanent **horns** of the cattle family). These racks vary considerably between individuals, from heavy palms (paddle-like) to very spiny (elk-like), and from symmetric to very different on each side. Note the wide variety of antlers on the magnificent bulls illustrated here. Fully developed racks of mature bulls tend to provide a fairly clear way to distinguish between individuals because their basic features are typically preserved from one year to the next. But more ways to distinguish male and female moose can be very useful in ambiguous situations...

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