



Although moose enter this world at about 30 pounds, lighter than a medium-size adult dog, they grow rapidly over the summer, typically weighing in at a couple hundred pounds or so as winter approaches. Note how large Billi's twins Kid and Kei appeared in mid fall of their first year. Their coats had already turned from the woolly tan of newborns into the dark sleek fur of mature moose. It is easy to see why many observers mistake older calves for yearlings or young adults. Kei is shown here suckling mom, which calves tend to do until winter sets in. As is usual with moose, Kid and Kei stayed close to their mother through their first winter, but were driven off the following spring just before Billi gave birth to her new calf. A yearling can, however, remain with its fallow mom up to and through its second season. Another characteristic of moose is that the first year of parenting is the sole responsibility of the mother: the sire leaves the cow right after mating, and mom usually keeps him and all other bulls away until the rut begins. Finding a bull in the proximity of a cow and calf in the summer may suggest a family get-together, but it's usually coincidental and fleeting. But sometimes mom isn't even in the picture...

[previous](#)

[next](#)