



A common belief is that the Shiras moose of Colorado are naturally aggressive, but this is a myth: they don't generally attack unless they're provoked. Nevertheless, a provoked moose can be dangerous. So what do you do if you're faced with an angry bull or cow? Well, the best defense, of course, is to not let that happen. Be very careful in their territory, give them lots of space (at least 25 yards), and always have an escape route in mind. Most important is to control all dogs, preferably by leash. Moose see canines as predators: when they're approached by one, it endangers both the dog and everyone nearby. Blacktip (left) and Corded (right) are really just playing with each other here, but they have the look that should alert us to possible danger. When all attempts to avoid confrontation fail, we could be facing a moose who is jerking its head back, laying back its ears, raising hair on its back, smacking or licking its lips, approaching with lowered head or the whites of its eyes showing, or, worse, charging. *Get away from this moose as fast as you can!* Don't try to stand your ground or look tall or act in any other way that you might with a predator. Moose don't see you as prey, so all they usually want to do is give you a message to get out of their space. Be alert and respectful, and let these magnificent creatures go about their own lives unaffected by your presence. And those complex lives can be so enlightening...

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