

Moose

Moose are the largest members of the deer family. They are the tallest mammals in North America. Moose look very awkward. They have a long head with big ears, a large rounded nose, and a bell of hair-covered skin or "dewlap" hanging from the throat. Powerful shoulder muscles give moose a humpbacked look. Despite their ungainly appearance, moose can run at speeds up to 35 mph and swim as fast as six miles an hour!

Moose live in spruce, fir, and pine forests near water. They like willow thickets along streams, ponds, and marshes. They stay in the high forests in Colorado even in winter. Moose hair is long, thick, brown, and hollow. The hollow hair holds air which helps keep the moose warm. Moose have long legs. Their front legs are longer than their rear legs. This helps them jump over fallen trees and walk through streams and deep snow.

