



It's unclear what causes anomalies in the ears of moose. Could it be birth defects, trauma, parasites, or frostbite? In any case, their vulnerable ears are often notched, sliced, rounded, tipped, ripped, or strangely degraded in some way. And while new damage can appear in a moose over the winter season and sometimes even over the summer months, old irregularities offer an exceptionally useful means of identification. Notice the wide variety of abnormalities in the moose pictured here. (We sometimes append an l and/or an r to a name to remind us of their imperfect ears.) To inspect the ears and other visual characteristics, it's important to photograph a moose from all angles, especially facial shots with their ears pointed forward and side shots of the bell. Individuals can of course be identified by many other characteristics, including coloring, special markings, behavior, location, and general appearance. But other moose topics are also worth discussing...

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