



While sparring is a common activity among moose, we observed a long and affectionate bout between two adolescent cows that challenged our understanding of these beautiful creatures. Blondie and Felicia started by head-butting and prancing around each other. With ears back, heads down, and the occasional half-kicks, they mimicked the more aggressive behavior of bulls fighting for dominance. But it was difficult to tell whether they were in mock battle or warm embrace as they continually snuck in affectionate neck rubs and body caresses. This scene was remarkable in its mixture of play, buddy behavior, and sparring, but it left us wondering why cows would ever really need to engage in head-to-head duels. But this was not our only cow sparring encounter...

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