



Twin moose calves often engage in playful behavior. As natural playmates, they indulge themselves in all sorts of antics, almost as soon as they can walk steadily. Sid and Shea were absorbed in a version of horse-like prancing and kicking at only a few weeks old. They also head-butted each other and mother Billi. They were especially comical as they continually danced around each another like pro boxers in the ring. When they are still so tiny and woolly, such behavior is hardly threatening . . . but especially entertaining to watch! We observed them when they were a little older sparring with a temporary road sign, no doubt frustrated that it did not fight back. Curiously, we have seen many other moose attack road signs. Mature bulls are often seen head-butting man-made objects during the rutting season. It may be that it gives bulls relief from itchy antlers during the shedding of velvet or that it provides an object for sparring practice. Perhaps it is simply a way for them to let off some steam. But juveniles can be even more aggressive...

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