



## Warning signs mean business

The locations for Maine's moose and deer crossing signs are chosen based on where there are high concentrations of wildlife and where collisions are common. Though MaineDOT installs animal passages and cuts trees to deter large animals from entering the highway at some locations, it is impossible to prevent wildlife crashes across this vast, rural state.



# MaineDOT



[mainedot.gov](http://mainedot.gov)

## The moose standoff

If you see a moose standing in or near the roadway use extreme caution, especially during mating season from September through October.

- **Slow down or stop.** Do not try to drive around.
- **Stay in your vehicle.** By getting out of the car, you put yourself and other drivers at risk. Moose can be unpredictable and may attack you or your vehicle.
- **Give moose plenty of room and let them wander back off the road.** What at first appears to be a gentle, lumbering moose can suddenly charge a car, then stride quietly away.

# Sharing the Road with Maine's Wildlife



# 1,000+ CRASHES per year



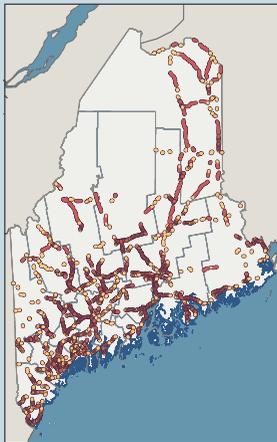
## 1,000+ crashes per year

In Maine, cars and trucks crash into moose and deer thousands of times every year. It's that big a problem.

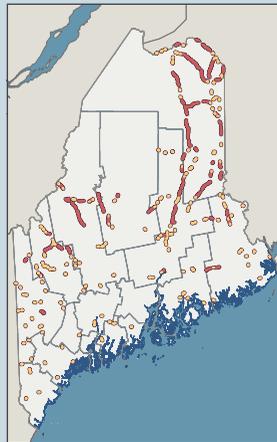
Of course, most people are delighted to see a beautiful white-tailed deer or a majestic bull moose. But few people know how to handle a head-on encounter with Maine's largest and wildest creatures.

The following safety tips will help you avoid the tragic results of colliding with moose, deer, and bears.

# Sharing the Road with Maine's Wildlife



**Deer Collisions  
2016 -2018**



**Moose Collisions  
2016 -2018**

 **HOT SPOT**  
 **MODERATE**



**Safety Tip:** Deer eyes reflect light from headlights very well. But because moose are taller, drivers won't see their eyes reflected in the headlights. This makes moose even harder to see in time to avoid a collision.

## Pay attention and keep to the speed limit

Driver distraction and inattention, combined with excess speed, often result in vehicle-wildlife collisions. Always scan the roadsides as well as the road. Motorists can't react in time if they are traveling more than 55 mph. Reducing speed at night greatly improves safety.

## Deer collisions peak in November

Collisions with deer increase in the autumn, peaking in November during the breeding season. But they can happen at any time of the year.

## Moose collisions increase in May and June

Collisions with moose increase dramatically in the spring. Autumn incidents are also common. But don't let your guard down. Crashes happen 12 months a year.

## From dusk to dawn

Although collisions can happen any time of the day, moose and deer are most active from dusk to dawn. So be especially alert after sunset because dark-colored animals can be very hard to see until they are right in front of your headlights.

## Animals live in the woods

Be alert in rural and forested areas. Deer are commonly seen near fields and orchards. Moose are often found in wetlands. Use high beams whenever possible. Watch for the reflective eyes of deer and the silhouette of a moose.

## "Herd" the one about the traveling moose?

Moose and deer often travel in small groups. If one animal crosses the road, you can bet that there are more animals nearby that may be crossing.

## What if a crash is unavoidable?

If you see a moose standing in or near the roadway, use extreme caution, especially during mating season from September through October.

If a crash with an animal is imminent, apply the brakes and steer straight. Let up on the brakes just before impact to allow the front of your vehicle to rise slightly, and aim to hit the tail end of the animal. This can reduce the risk of the animal striking the windshield area and may increase your chances of missing the animal. If possible, duck down to protect yourself from windshield debris.

Be aware that wildlife collisions can occur at any time, under almost any circumstances and anywhere in Maine. Moose have been hit in heavily populated neighborhoods in Portland, Lewiston-Auburn, and Bangor - Maine's three largest communities. So pay attention, stay alert and always remember... safety is no accident.