

## Car-licking moose a problem on Canada's roads

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via Denali National Park on flickr.com

There are plenty of road signs around the world that amuse and bemuse motorists. The latest to raise smiles and possibly a sense of bewilderment are in Canada. Transport authorities in the town of Jasper, Alberta have

erected electronic signs to warn drivers not to let moose lick their cars. Moose are the largest and heaviest members of the deer family and are native to Canada. They are a frequent sight on Canadian roads, but an addiction to salt has led them to sate their need by licking cars. Vehicles are splashed with road salt that has been sprinkled on the road to help melt snow. It is common to see moose licking salt on the roads, but they have now developed a preference for licking it off cars.

A Jasper National Park spokesperson explained why the salt licking was a problem. He warned that the moose's addiction is becoming an increasing problem and could be fatal. He said: "This behaviour started as an occasional issue a few years ago and now is too common. People are getting far too close, and it's perpetuated by the moose's obsession with salt." A tour operator said: "I hate to say it, but this road salt is kind of like a drug for the moose." The salt habit poses additional dangers for the moose. Cars are invariably covered with a whole host of harmful chemicals. In addition, moose are vulnerable to pneumonia. Licking car surfaces could increase the risk of spreading disease.

Sources:  
thedrive.com / [interestingengineering.com](http://interestingengineering.com) / [carbuzz.com](http://carbuzz.com)

### Writing

All roads should be fenced off to protect animals. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

plenty / road signs / amuse / bewilderment / moose / lick / addiction / snow / cars / problem / fatal / behaviour / issue / obsession / tour operator / dangers / pneumonia

### True / False

- a) The article says road signs are made to amuse motorists. T / F
- b) There are electronic signs in a Canadian town to scare moose away. T / F
- c) Moose are an introduced species in Canada. T / F
- d) The article says moose are addicted to salt. T / F
- e) A park spokesman suggested moose could die if they lick salt off a car. T / F
- f) The article says moose have been licking salt off cars for decades. T / F
- g) Someone said the salt is like a drug for the moose. T / F
- h) Moose can catch pneumonia easily. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>bemuse</b>      | a. put up      |
| 2. <b>sense</b>       | b. susceptible |
| 3. <b>erected</b>     | c. random      |
| 4. <b>native</b>      | d. feeling     |
| 5. <b>preference</b>  | e. kept going  |
| 6. <b>fatal</b>       | f. fondness    |
| 7. <b>occasional</b>  | g. confuse     |
| 8. <b>perpetuated</b> | h. constitutes |
| 9. <b>poses</b>       | i. deadly      |
| 10. <b>vulnerable</b> | j. indigenous  |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about moose?
- b) What do you think of road signs?
- c) What was the last thing that made you smile?
- d) What do you know about deer?
- e) What do you know about salt?
- f) What are the benefits and detriments of salt?
- g) How can authorities help the moose?
- h) Are you addicted to anything?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. amuse and                                | a. bewilderment              |
| 2. a sense of                               | b. be fatal                  |
| 3. native                                   | c. salt                      |
| 4. an addiction to                          | d. risk of spreading disease |
| 5. they have now developed a preference     | e. to Canada                 |
| 6. becoming an increasing problem and could | f. host of harmful chemicals |
| 7. perpetuated by the moose's obsession     | g. to pneumonia              |
| 8. covered with a whole                     | h. bemuse motorists          |
| 9. moose are vulnerable                     | i. for licking it            |
| 10. increase the                            | j. with salt                 |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What can authorities do about the moose's obsession?
- Do you have an obsession with anyone?
- What do you know about pneumonia?
- What do you think of salt?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- Should all the roads be fenced to keep the moose out?
- What questions would you like to ask the transport officials?

## Spelling

- amuse and uebesm motorists
- a sense of wilrmeenbdet
- Transport aeuriitohst
- an dcidnaito to salt
- salt that has been epskndirl on the road
- developed a nepfreceer for licking it
- could be altfa
- an lioascncao issue
- it's dpetutaeerp by the moose
- soobsiesn with salt
- Cars are aibrynlavi covered
- Inbvrualee to pneumonia

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. j	5. f
6. i	7. c	8. e	9. h	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Animals

You think animals are the biggest problem on the roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the smallest problem of these (and why): pot holes, bad signs or traffic lights.

### Role B – Pot Holes

You think pot holes are the biggest problem on the roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the smallest problem of these (and why): animals, bad signs or traffic lights.

### Role C – Bad Signs

You think bad signs are the biggest problem on the roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the smallest problem of these (and why): pot holes, animals or traffic lights.

### Role D – Traffic Lights

You think traffic lights are the biggest problem on the roads. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the smallest problem of these (and why): pot holes, bad signs or animals.

## Speaking – Road Problems

Rank these with your partner. Put the best road problems at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Animals       | • Traffic        |
| • Pot holes     | • Bad signs      |
| • Poor lighting | • Traffic lights |
| • Flooding      | • Width          |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.