

Elk Calving Season

May 15 - June 30

Protective mothers will aggressively protect their newborns by kicking and charging at people.

During the calving season:

- Avoid lone female elk; they separate from the herd for calving and may have calves nearby.
- Avoid calves; they will have a protective mother nearby.
- Walk on open roads rather than forest trails to avoid stumbling upon female elk or calves.

Recognizing the danger signs in the spring:



- Eyes stare directly at you
- Flattened ears
- Raised rump hair
- Curled lips
- Teeth grinding
- Following or circling
- Charging or kicking

How do I avoid an elk encounter?



- **Stay 30 metres away from all elk.**
- Keep children within arms reach and always keep dogs on a leash.
- Travel in groups and carry a walking stick, bear spray or umbrella.

Tips for safe elk viewing

- Give elk plenty of room, and watch for danger signs.
- Do not entice wildlife with food or by simulating animal calls.
- Photograph the animal in its natural environment, or use a telephoto lens rather than moving closer to the animal.

Elk Rutting Season

September 1 - October 15

Anything that gets too close or comes between a male and the females may be attacked.

During the Rutting Season:

- Never stand between a male and the females, you may be attacked.
- Never park your vehicle between a male and the females, your vehicle may be attacked and damaged.
- Watch ahead for elk and detour by walking around on the uphill side.

Recognizing the danger signs in the fall:



- Antlers lowered towards you
- Appears agitated
- Thrashing Bushes
- Pawing at the ground
- Charging

What should I do if I can't avoid an elk encounter?

- Act dominant if an elk gets too close.
- Seek protection behind a tree or vehicle.
- Raise your arms or flap a jacket to make yourself appear larger.
- Maintain eye contact and move away.
- Contact encounters are rare—if knocked down, get up and move away. **Do not play dead!**

- Never put people (especially children) at risk by posing them with wildlife.
- Do not stalk, pursue or follow wildlife into the bush.



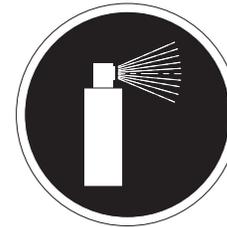
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY



All wild animals are unpredictable.



Animals are wild, even if they appear tame.



Carry bear spray. Know how to use it.



Be aware of your surroundings. Don't tune out.

Report all wildlife encounters to a Parks Canada staff or phone 780-852-6155

It is illegal to feed, entice or disturb any wildlife in a national park.

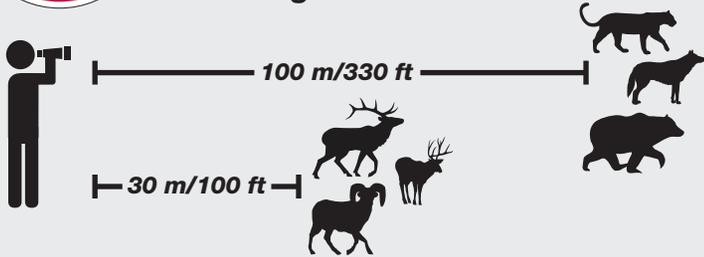
Violators will be charged, required to appear in court, and could pay fines up to \$25,000.

Give Wildlife Space.



DO NOT APPROACH OR ENTICE WILDLIFE.

Following, crowding or startling wildlife can lead to aggressive encounters, which can put you and others in danger. When viewing wildlife:



- Stay at least 100 metres away from bears, coyotes, wolves and cougars.
- Stay at least 30 metres away from elk, bighorn sheep, moose and deer.

If you see wildlife on the road **always slow down.**

If you do stop (*not recommended for the safety of wildlife*):

- Pull over where it is safe to do so.
- Use your hazard lights to alert others.
- **Stay in your vehicle.**
- Quickly observe, take a photo and move on.
- Move on if a traffic jam develops. It is unsafe for people and wildlife.

Human Food and Garbage Kills Wildlife.



NEVER LEAVE FOOD UNATTENDED.

Wildlife that eat human food or garbage become aggressive with people. This puts both people and wildlife at risk of being hurt or killed.



Keep pets on a leash.

- Pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
- **Do not leave pet food out.** If you walk away, store food dishes – empty or full. Always store food dishes at night.
- Pets attract wildlife and may be attacked if they are left unattended.



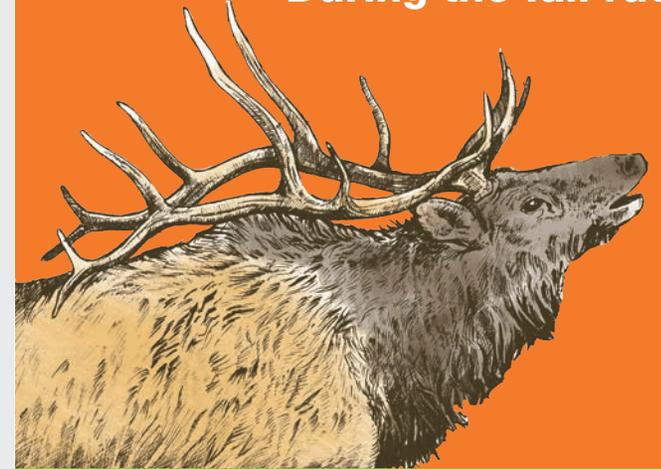
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Do not approach wildlife.

Living with Elk

During the fall rut



During the spring calving season

