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**NEW PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF NEWBORN MOOSE AT NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK
DEPICT A SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN MOTHER CONNIE AND DAYS-OLD MALE CALF**

Visitors to the wildlife park are thrilled when they spot the pair during Free-Roaming Area tram tours; moose calf joins bison, elk and caribou calves, deer fawns, bighorn sheep lambs and other newborns

EATONVILLE, Wash. - At just 5-days-old, he has spindly legs, a sturdy body and deep brown eyes.

Someone once said moose calves are so impossibly shaped, they look like a small car on stilts.



Except they're much cuter.

Already, Northwest Trek's newest resident has been drawing oohs and aahs from visitors on tram tours through the 435-Acre Free-Roaming Area.

A newborn moose calf and his mother, Connie, at home in the Free-Roaming Area at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

He was born on Sunday to mother Connie.

The yet-to-be-named youngster brings the population of his species at Northwest Trek to five and is just the second moose born at the wildlife park in the past 16 years. In addition to him and his mother, the calf's 11-month-old sister, Willow; father, Ellis; and another adult female, Nancy, also live at the wildlife park.

You couldn't exactly say they posed, because, well, they're wild animals who have no Hollywood training. But mother and calf were perfect subjects Wednesday for a photographer and videographer.



The days-old moose calf nurses from mother Connie while standing under towering Douglas firs at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park on Wednesday.

They are, however, not the only stars at Northwest Trek. The woodland caribou mothers rejoined the rest of the vegetation-eating animals in the wildlife park's meadows and forests Wednesday morning, bringing along two newborn calves.



A weeks-old caribou calf scampers through the brush in the Free-Roaming Area at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park on Wednesday after two caribou calves and their moms were released from a behind-the-scenes birthing area.

All told, there are more than two dozen newborns in Northwest Trek's largest animal living space this spring. They include five American bison calves, two Roosevelt elk calves, the caribou and moose calves, plus two bighorn sheep lambs, a number of deer fawns and uncounted numbers of goslings.

In addition, there is a trio of weeks-old beaver kits in the Wetlands Area along the forested pathways in the center of the wildlife park.

And two 1-year-old North American river otters arrived just last week from ZooMontana

Northwest Trek also is home to a grizzly bear, two black bears, a cougar, coyotes, Canada lynx, bobcats, wolves, foxes and a variety of other animals.

But back to that moose. Keepers can only estimate his weight right now; calves generally weigh around 30 pounds at birth, Zoological Curator Marc Heinzman said. The growing youngster can gain around three pounds a day while nursing.

When fully grown, he'll likely sport an impressive rack of antlers and could weigh more than 1,500 pounds.

For now, he appears comfortable hanging out with mom and testing those spindly legs with wobbly steps through the forest.

Within the next two weeks, keepers will propose a slate of prospective names for the little guy. The Northwest-themed names will be posted at www.nwtrek.org, on the wildlife park's Facebook page and publicized in a news release. Fans will have about two weeks to vote on their favorite, and the calf will receive the name that gets the most votes. That will happen in early July.

The growing moose family at Northwest Trek is a conservation success story.

Both of the calves' parents and the wildlife park's third adult moose all arrived as malnourished and abandoned orphans four years ago. Connie and Ellis were discovered, separately, hungry and in need of care in Idaho; Nancy was orphaned in Alaska. Northwest Trek keepers bottle fed the trio and gradually introduced them to browse – the tree limbs, twigs and leaves that are their primary diet. When they were old enough and strong enough, they joined other ungulates, or hooved mammals, in the wildlife park's Free-Roaming Area.

So, with school out and a weather forecast that promises sunny skies and warm temperatures in coming days, it's a great time to visit Northwest Trek.

The wildlife park is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, go to www.nwtrek.org or www.nwtrek.org/moose.

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Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park dedicated to conservation, education and recreation by displaying, interpreting and researching native Northwest wildlife and their natural habitats. The wildlife park, a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma, is located 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161.

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