



## **MOURNING THE LOSS OF BELOVED MOOSE ATLAS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 24, 2024

Eatonville, Wash.-- Atlas, a beloved moose at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, was found deceased Monday in the park's 435-acre Free-Roaming Area.

Dr. Allison Case, the wildlife park's veterinarian, said the nearly two-year-old moose was a big, healthy bull moose who appears to have died from a sudden acute hemorrhagic disease.

"Atlas was adored by everyone who knew him, and we are devastated to lose him so suddenly and unexpectedly," said Dr. Case.

Dr. Case completed an extensive necropsy (animal autopsy) and is doing in-depth diagnostic tests to better understand what happened to Atlas. More information will be shared as it is learned.

"We'll know more when we receive the lab results of his bloodwork, tissue samples and fecal samples," said Dr. Case.

Keepers described Atlas as very curious, confident, and affectionate with his care team. He would get the zoomies and loved to run around. Keepers had developed strong bonds with Atlas, training him daily to voluntarily participate in his own medical care when necessary. Atlas was trained to step on a scale so keepers could monitor his weight and growth. In April, he weighed 745 pounds, a "healthy weight for a growing calf his age," according to Dr. Case.

Atlas was rescued as an orphan by biologists from the Alaska Fish & Game Department in May 2022 in Anchorage. The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center provided a temporary home for Atlas until he could move to Northwest Trek in August 2022. He arrived with two other orphaned calves, Callisto (Calli) and Luna.

Keepers often saw the three moose together, enjoying their favorite saplings and plants, splashing in the lake, and interacting with other animals in the 435-acre Free-Roaming Area, home to elk, bison, caribou, bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

The two female moose, Calli and Luna, are showing no signs of illness and Dr. Case and the animal care team are closely monitoring them.

The median life expectancy for male moose in human care is about 6 years. Moose are the tallest wild animals in North America and play a crucial role in helping people learn more about Northwest ecosystems.

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