

# Moose Identification Primer

## Moose Day 2012



# Moose in February

- Males have antlers from approximately April through December. Therefore, none in February.
- Once male's antlers fall off, they immediately start growing another pair. However, this growth isn't visible for a while but the antler scar is.
- Females have a white vulva patch which becomes more distinct as they age but is always present.

What do you see on this moose's butt? That white patch is the vulva patch = female.

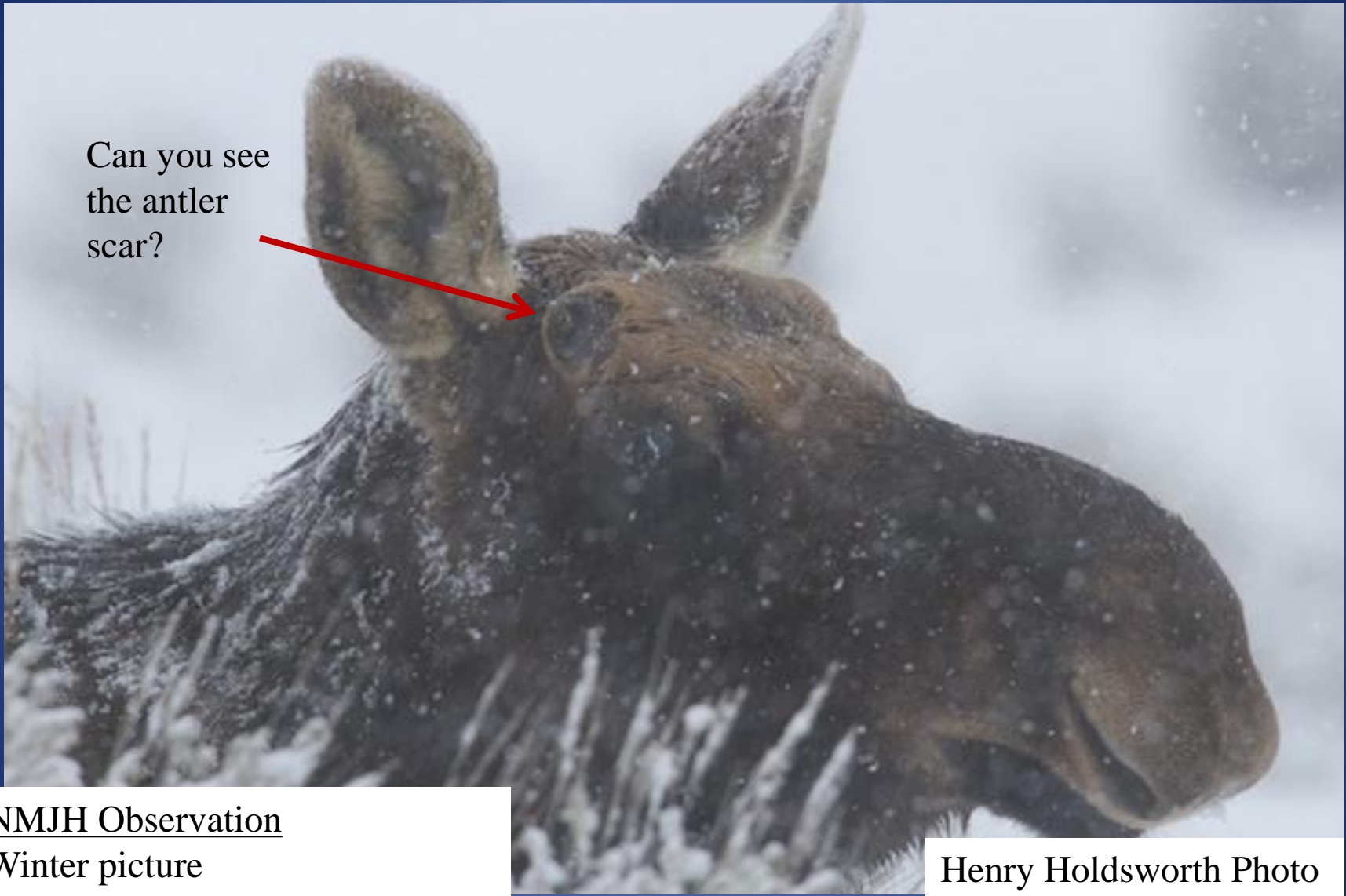


NMJH Observation

Fall picture

Large bodied and vulva patch  
therefore an Adult Female

Susan Marsh Photo

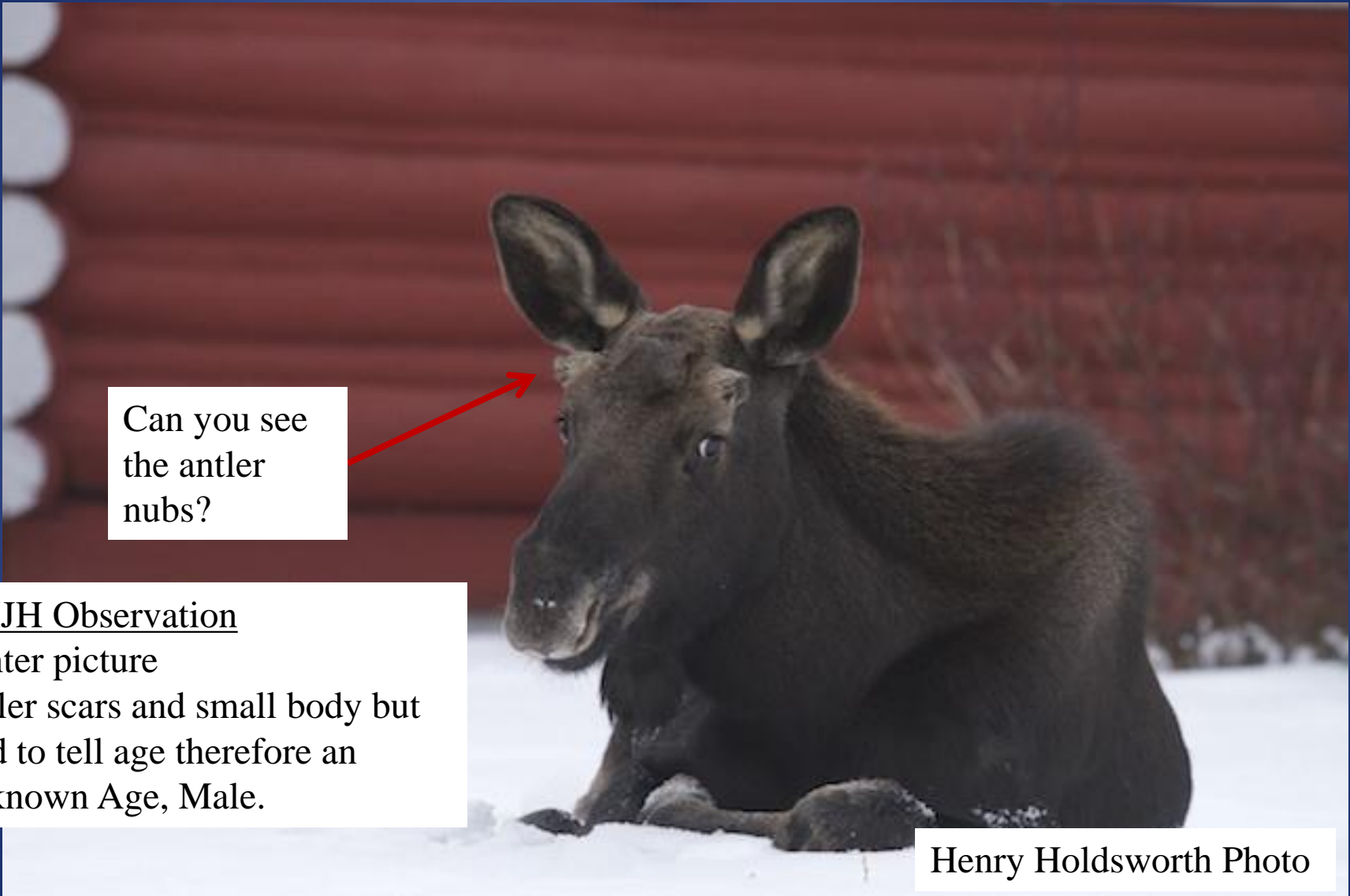


Can you see  
the antler  
scar?

NMJH Observation

Winter picture  
Antler scars and hard to tell age  
therefore an Unknown Age Male

Henry Holdsworth Photo



Can you see  
the antler  
nubs?

NMJH Observation  
Winter picture  
Antler scars and small body but  
hard to tell age therefore an  
Unknown Age, Male.

Henry Holdsworth Photo

PS – If you’ve looked at a lot of moose, this one has a small head and body and therefore a yearling male. However, remember, when in doubt leave it out, therefore writing down an unknown age male is the safe bet. If you write down yearling, please make a comment as to why.

No antler scar or  
nubs on my head.  
So I must be a  
female.



NMJH Observation

Winter picture

Big head and body without antler  
scars therefore an Adult Female

What is funny looking about this moose?

Her ears are cropped on the top indicating that she is suffering from carotid artery worm. If you see this, please put it in the comments!



NMJH Observation

Fall picture

No antlers and if you could see her behind it should have a vulva patch on it. Therefore, an adult (large size in fall) female.

Comments: Cropped ears.

# Aging Moose in February

- Juvenile (this year's young, born in May/June) will still be with an adult cow
- Yearlings (1-2 years old) will probably be on their own, may be with an adult, should have visible antler scars/ nubs if a male. Females will have the white vulva patch. Do not try to separate yearling females from adult females. If aging as yearling, please write a comment as to why.
- Adult (>2 years old) will have a visible vulva patch or antler scars, be on their own or with young.



Male or Female  
moose?



NMJH Observation

Fall picture

Large body, vulva patch  
and no antlers therefore  
an adult female.

Thanks for caring about me  
and helping out with  
Moose Day!



PS – This moose is tick infested which caused the loss of the dark guard hairs, making it difficult to see the white vulva patch.