

The beast of the dark

"*What the heck is that?*" In the light from the cars headlights we suddenly spot the beast: A huge moose facing straight towards us. It runs in the middle of the road. The animal seems extremely large from our seat in the car.

The moose is driven by oncoming cars. As it is very close to us, we are reversing down the road. We must reverse 3-400 meters with the moose running right in front of our car. Then we have the opportunity to get away from the road, and the moose continues into the darkness.

In June 2016 moose were released to the bog Lille Vildmose. The roads in the bog have been drawn as a line with a ruler. Although speed limits are clearly set in the fenced area, the long straight roads tempt to a high speed.

High speed in the bog can become fatal. In the darkness lurks the beast of the dark. Not with black cap and a scythe, but with four legs and five hundred kilogrammes of meat. The moose are most active after dark.

In Sweden it is estimated that the stock of moose is 300,000 animals. Annually, 4,500 collisions between cars and moose are recorded in Sweden every year. The real number can be as high as 10,000 collisions. On the annual plan, 10-15 people are killed on the Swedish roads as a result of a collision with moose. The moose is the most dangerous animal for man in Scandinavia.

I wonder if the drivers who exceed the speed limits in Lille Vildmose think that they could become part of the moose collision statistic in Denmark? Do they think at all?



A moose on the road Ny Høstemarksvej, Lille Vildmose, Himmerland, August 2018