

infected animal. Worldwide, endemic canine rabies is estimated to cause 59,000 human deaths annually. Most of these deaths occur in Asia and Africa, with rural populations and children disproportionately affected. Thus, in many resource-poor and resource-limited countries, canine rabies continues to be a threat to humans. However, in Latin America, rabies control efforts in dogs have been quite successful in recent years. Endemic canine rabies has been eliminated from the United States and most other resource-rich countries. Rabies is endemic in wildlife species, and a variety of animal reservoirs have been identified in different countries of the world (**Fig. 208-1**). Surveillance data from 2019 identified 4690 confirmed animal cases of rabies in the United States and Puerto Rico. Only 8.2% of these cases were in domestic animals, including 245 cases in cats, 66 in dogs, and 39 in cattle. In North American wildlife reservoirs, including bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes, the infection is endemic, with involvement of one or more rabies virus variants in each reservoir species (**Fig. 208-2**). “Spillover” of rabies to other wildlife species and to domestic animals occurs. Bat rabies virus variants are present in every state except Hawaii and are responsible for most indigenously acquired human rabies cases in the United States. Raccoon rabies is endemic along the entire eastern coast of the United States. Skunk rabies is present in the midwestern states, with another focus in California. Rabies in foxes occurs in New Mexico, Arizona, and Alaska. In the United States there were two human rabies deaths in 2017, three in 2018, and none in 2019.