Rabies in the US 2018

In 2018, rabid animals in the US totalled 4,951, an increase from 4,454 in 2017 by 11.2%.

Bats were the most frequently reported rabid animal in the United States in 2018. 33% of animal rabies cases in the U.S. in 2018 were bats.

In 2015, bats supplanted raccoons as the most frequently reported rabid animal in the United States. The trend has continued through 2018.

3 Human cases of rabies in 2018:
- A 6-year-old boy from Florida, bitten by a bat
- A 69-year-old woman from Delaware, with raccoon variant detected
- A 55-year-old man from Utah, likely due to bat exposure

That makes 45 human cases since 2003. More than half were infected with a bat rabies virus.

Rabies in the U.S. 2018

More than 1/2 of all rabid domestic animals reported in 2018 were found in 5 states: PA, VA, MD, GA, NY.