**CLIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT**

**Customer Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip code**

**Phone number, Alt. phone number, Fax number, e-mail address, web site**

**Getah Virus Infection**

**Basics**

**Overview**

* Mosquito-borne virus infection, widely distributed from Eurasia to Australia
* Naturally occurring disease infrequently reported in horses and rarely in swine
* Virus likely maintained in swine–mosquito–swine cycle

**Signalment**

* Whereas infection can occur in various horse breeds, mostly frequently reported in Thoroughbred racehorses

**Signs**

* Fever
* Anorexia
* Depression
* Limb and preputial edema
* Skin rash
* Serous nasal discharge
* Submandibular lymphadenopathy
* Stiff gait

**Causes**

* The disease caused by Getah virus is a nonfatal infection in horses that is transmitted by certain mosquito species in regions where the virus is endemic. The potential may also exist for respiratory transmission of the virus among horses in close contact with one another

**Treatment**

* Not usually indicated because of the mild nature of the disease

**Activity**

* Horses in training should be given a short period of rest following complete resolution of clinical signs

**Medications**

* Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may be called for in some more severely affected horses

**Follow-Up**

**Expected Course and Prognosis**

* Complete clinical recovery occurs within 7–14 days of onset of disease. Excellent prognosis

**Key Points**

* Mosquito-borne virus infection, widely distributed from Eurasia to Australia
* Naturally occurring nonfatal disease that is infrequently reported in horses, usually in Thoroughbreds in training
* Most commonly encountered clinical signs include fever, anorexia, depression, limb and preputial edema, and skin rash
* Disease readily diagnosed by virus detection from blood and nasal secretions and by serologic testing of acute and convalescent sera
* Since Getah virus causes a mild, self-limiting infection, treatment of clinically affected horses infrequently indicated
* Prevention and control of Getah virus infection is readily accomplished by vaccination in advance of the mosquito season



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