

DEADLY DISEASE APPEAL

Will you help to stop the appalling suffering caused by epizootic lymphangitis?



EAL is a terrible disease which is causing pain and distress for working animals. We need your support to treat suffering animals and prevent the spread. Please donate today. Thank you, Linda



Content approved by:
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UNSPEAKABLE SUFFERING

The horrors of epizootic lymphangitis are all too real for working animals across Africa. Only with your support can we stop this deadly disease in its tracks.

Epizootic lymphangitis, or EZL, is a highly contagious and often fatal disease affecting horses, donkeys and mules. The disease is caused by a fungus called '*Histoplasma capsulatum* var. *farciminosum*' (HCF), which can enter a working animal's body through open wounds or can be breathed into the respiratory tract – it can even infect through an animal's eyes.

The disease is easily spread between animals who come into close contact or share equipment and can also be transmitted by flies. This awful disease has been eradicated in the UK, with the last outbreak in 1906, but sadly it's still seen in many countries across Africa, with particular prevalence in Ethiopia. The hot and humid conditions there make it perfect for the fungal infection to spread among the large population of horses.

Once infected, there is little hope for working animals without prompt treatment. The disease spreads quickly, causing painful abscesses which usually start on the legs before spreading up the neck to the face. The ulcerous nodules can start to weep, the whole area swells and the terrible pain often leaves the poor animals unable to walk. Many owners feel they have no choice but to abandon their sick animals.

Eventually, the disease will go on to attack the animal's internal organs. Left to fend for themselves, animals with EZL face a slow and painful death.



EZL is a fungal disease that causes pus-filled abscesses and painful swelling

SPANA'S SOLUTION



With your support SPANA vets can treat infected working animals

Thankfully, if caught early enough, EZL can be treated. With a carefully managed treatment plan, the skin can be soothed while the infection is fought internally with medication.

SPANNA has been providing successful EZL treatment in Ethiopia for many years and the good news is that, thanks to our supporters, we are making an impact. The number of cases in the area around our Bishoftu centre has reduced significantly. But now is not the time to stop. We desperately need your support to continue this progress, and to help working animals in more areas in Ethiopia through our mobile clinics and our new centre in Gondar.

We also need to educate owners in how to spot the early signs of EZL and train veterinary professionals on EZL treatment, spread and prevention. It is only by preventing the spread that we can stop this devastating disease.

Please read on for more details on how you can help to fight this deadly disease.

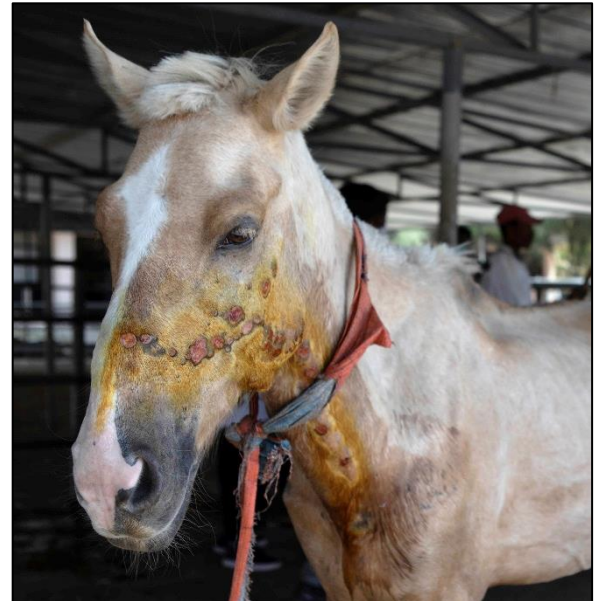
DAMMA'S STORY

When abscesses started to form on Damma's face and neck, his owner Abebe feared it would be a death sentence for his faithful horse.

Damma is a nine-year-old horse from the village of Denkaka in central Ethiopia. He works long hours for six days every week, pulling a cart for his owner Abebe. At just 17, Abebe's small income helps to support his parents, two sisters and brother.

Damma and Abebe have been working together for the past two years. Each day, they take their place in the crowded 'taxi' rank in Denkaka. They transport goods and people along the region's dusty roads. It's tough work in the hot and humid conditions, but Damma is a sweet-natured horse, always ready to take on his next job with gusto.

One day, Abebe noticed some small bumps on Damma's neck. He wasn't too worried at first, thinking they would just disappear on their own. But, instead more bumps appeared, spreading up to Damma's face. They grew bigger, opening up and oozing a thick discharge. Damma shied away in pain when Abebe tried to take a closer look.



Damma needed urgent treatment when abscesses appeared on his face and neck

The bumps looked like the abscesses Abebe had seen on another horse's leg, which swelled and became so painful that the horse struggled to walk. Abebe became very worried that this could be the same disease – EZL, which he knew could be fatal.



SPANA's expert vet carefully treated Damma's abscesses

Fortunately, Abebe had heard about SPANA's centre from a friend, so he decided to take Damma for treatment. The hour-long walk to the centre seemed to take forever. Abebe was so relieved to finally arrive, and our team immediately came to Damma's aid.

Our expert vets could see straight away that poor Damma was suffering from EZL and his life was at risk. Damma was isolated from the other animals at the clinic while he received the treatment he desperately needed – please see overleaf for a detailed description of SPANA's EZL treatment plan.

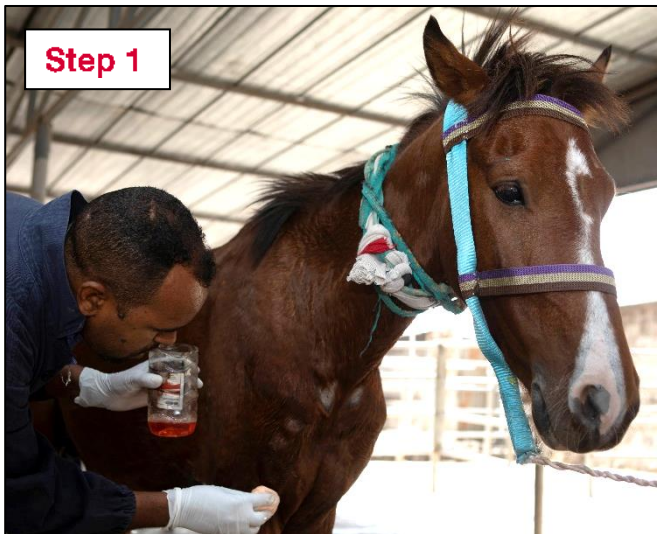
Abebe watched and listened carefully as our team showed him how to keep Damma's wounds clean, which he would need to do at home on a daily basis. Abebe promised to continue Damma's treatment and bring him back to the clinic for regular check-ups.

Abebe was so grateful for the help that he and Damma received and was very happy to hear that the vets expected Damma would eventually make a full recovery.

Damma was one of the lucky ones, but there are many others at risk of dying. Please send a gift today, to help save the lives of more working animals like Damma.

LIFESAVING TREATMENT

Treating EZL is a long and complex process, but without treatment, infected animals face months of suffering and a painful death.



Step 1

After a dose of anti-inflammatories for pain relief, the infected areas of skin are thoroughly cleaned with antiseptic solution. This is to prevent any contamination from the surface of the skin when opening the nodules.



Step 2

The next step is to use a scalpel to carefully incise the nodules. Any dead tissue is removed, and the discharge is drained. The area is thoroughly cleaned again in preparation for the next step.



Step 3

Iodine solution is applied to the affected areas and left in place to protect the open wounds and prevent further infection. The animal's owner is given a supply of the solution and shown how to clean the wounds each day.



Step 4

Finally, the animal is given an oral dose of potassium iodide to fight the infection internally. The owner is advised to bring their animal back to the clinic once a week to monitor their progress and continue treatment.

A day each week is set aside at our Ethiopia clinics for EZL treatment, to keep weekly follow-ups on the same day. This helps to prevent infected animals from mixing with, and infecting, other animals. The clinics and all equipment used are regularly disinfected to prevent spreading of infection.

EZL treatment is long and complex, but it's so rewarding to see these terribly sick animals become brighter each week and move more easily as the swelling goes down. **This treatment saves lives.**

Your donation could save a working animal's life by paying for essential medication and equipment such as iodine solution, potassium iodide and scalpels.

STOP THE SPREAD

EZL is highly contagious, so it's essential we educate working animal owners and veterinary professionals in how to prevent the spread of this awful disease.

Educating owners

Working animal owners have a crucial role to play, not only in protecting their own animals, but also other animals in their community.

It's vitally important that owners know how to spot the early signs of EZL to prevent it spreading and becoming an outbreak. At the first sign, they need to isolate their animal and disinfect any shared equipment to prevent infecting others. Then, they must seek professional treatment as soon as possible.

Education of owners takes place both informally during our treatment clinics and as part of more formal community training sessions. Whenever SPANA treats, we also train, and this is crucial with EZL. We speak to each owner of an infected animal about early identification of the disease, how to prevent transmission and how to provide ongoing care.

Getu, whose carthorse was treated for EZL, said: *'Thank you SPANA. No other clinics treat EZL. We get this service from SPANA only. I will keep my horse's EZL wounds clean by washing them daily. Thank you very much.'*

EZL is an important topic, which forms part of our wider community training programme. Communities are brought together to build their knowledge of animal welfare and create long-term change for the benefit of themselves and their animals.



SPANA vets teach working animal owners how to spot the early signs of EZL and prevent the spread



Vet students learn first-hand how to treat EZL by joining SPANA clinics

Training veterinary professionals

As experts in the welfare of working animals, SPANA provides regular training on EZL treatment, spread and prevention to veterinary professionals, including veterinary students, government veterinarians and other animal health workers.

Additionally, veterinary university students routinely join our EZL clinics to learn first-hand how to treat EZL cases, while providing help to the team.

We are also working with the University of Gondar to conduct and participate in several research projects about EZL to gain a better understanding of the disease and its geographical spread.

You can protect working animals by helping to prevent the spread of EZL. Your support can provide essential training for owners and veterinary professionals.

YOUR IMPACT

Only with your support can SPANA vets save working animals like Damma from the horrors of epizootic lymphangitis (EZL).

Your donation could:

- save a horse like Damma from suffering a painful death due to EZL by providing the expert treatment they need.
- ensure working animal owners are educated about EZL – so they know when to seek treatment and how to prevent transmission.
- provide training for veterinary professionals and students on EZL treatment, spread and prevention to protect working animals in the future.



Working animals need your help. Your kindness can relieve their pain and help to stop this deadly disease in its tracks. Your gift of:

- £250 could **pay for essential medication and equipment** to provide lifesaving treatment for working animals infected with EZL. For example, your gift could buy iodine solution, potassium iodide and scalpels. Around **1,000 EZL treatments are delivered each year** in Ethiopia, so our supplies need constant replenishment.
- £500 could **fund community training for working animal owners**, helping them to recognise the early signs of EZL and understand how to prevent their animal from infecting others. **SPANA trains around 2,000 owners about EZL each year** in Ethiopia.
- £1,000 could **provide quality training for veterinary professionals and vet students** about EZL. **SPANA trains more than 200 students each year** ensuring that the quality of care they go on to give thousands of working animals will be effective in the fight to treat and stop the spread of EZL.



Your gift today can save lives. Please help working animals who are in pain and despair because of EZL. Thank you.