

# Camel Health Management Practices and Helminth Infections in Pastoral Systems in Ethiopia

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## Introduction

Camels are vital for livelihoods of pastoral communities in arid and semi-arid regions in Ethiopia. Performances often hindered by poor management and diseases.

- Study objective: Assess camel healthcare practices and helminth infections of camels in Borana and East Shewa zones.

## Material & Methods

386 herders in the East Shewa and Borana zones (2024) ⇒ Camel health management practices

Recording of health and fecal examination of 132 lactating camels and 119 calves in 48 camel herds (dry season 2024/25)

Statistical analysis (descriptive statistics and Chi-square tests) in Stata version 14.2



Fig. 1. Camel treatment by a herder in East Shewa.

## Conclusions & Recommendation

- Camels received suboptimal healthcare suffering from high parasite burdens due to limited access to veterinary services.
- There is need for improved veterinary service delivery and helminth control to improve camel health and milk production.

## Results & Discussion

Camel healthcare was primarily provided by the herders themselves (81%) (Fig. 1), rather than by public veterinary services (38%) or traditional healers (10%). Veterinary drug use was significantly higher in East Shewa than in Borana ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig 2).

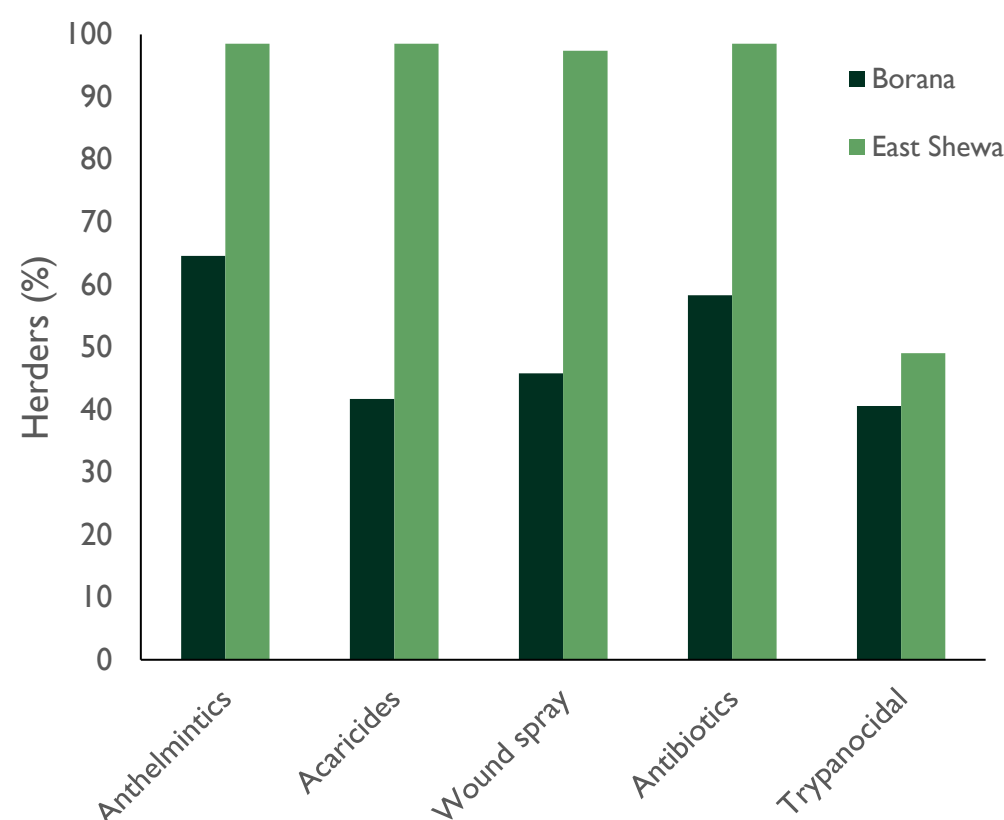


Fig. 2. Drug usage for treatment of camels (n=386 herders).

Only few herders reported to vaccinate camels (11% each in East Shewa and Borana), of which the majority (>80%) did not know the type of vaccine. The low vaccination rate was due to missing awareness (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1. Reasons for not vaccinating camels (n=386 herders).

Reasons	East Shewa (n=194)	Borana (n=192)
No awareness	82.5	81.5
High cost	1.0	9.1
Low effectiveness	0.0	1.3
Unavailability	0.0	0.3
No response	4.6	4.4

Lactating camels and calves in Borana had significantly higher helminth infection rates (85% and 78%, respectively) than those in East Shewa (53% and 48%). Most infected animals carried a heavy parasite burden, with egg counts as high as 30,000 eggs per gram (EPG).

