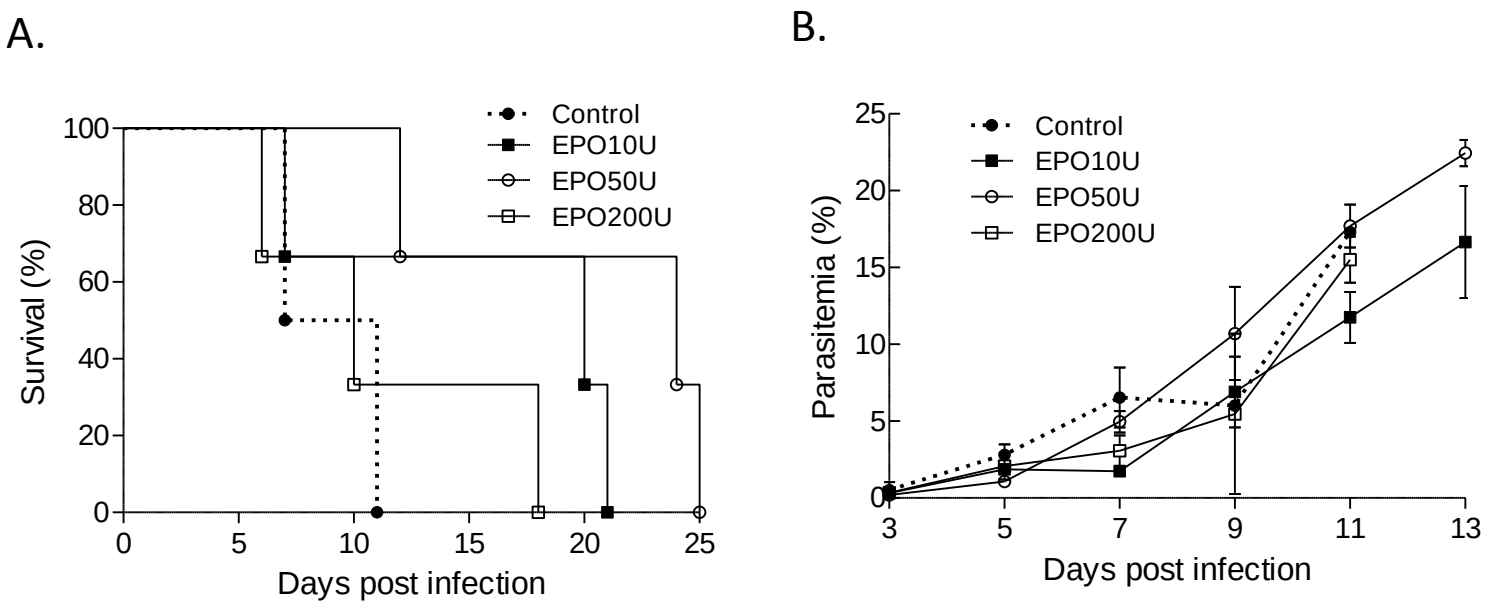

FIG S1 Treatment with rhEPO increases survival of mice with PbA-induced ECM. C57BL/6 mice were infected with PbA and three groups (n = 3 mice per group) were treated with rhEPO at day 2-4 days p.i. at three daily doses (10, 50 or 200 U/mouse), while the control group was treated with PBS. (**A**). Cumulative survival analysis. PbA-infected mice were monitored daily for survival. All rhEPO treatments offered significant protection of mice against ECM compared with the untreated group (Kaplan-Meier analysis, $P < 0.05$, log-rank test) (**B**). Parasitemia was monitored by microscopic evaluation of thin blood films with Giemsa staining. Values represent the mean ± SEM. There were no significant differences in the levels of daily parasitemia between the treatment groups.

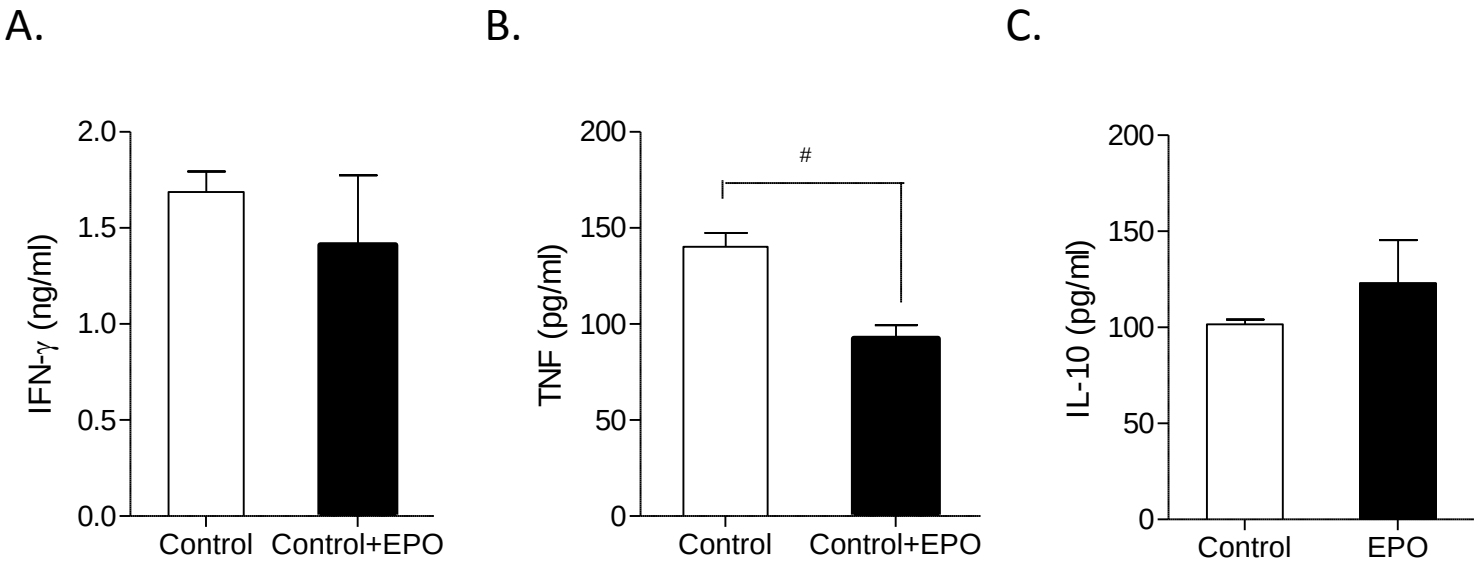

FIG S2. The levels of cytokine secretion by splenic cells during in vitro incubation with rhEPO. The splenocytes from PbA-infected mice 5 days p.i. were cultured in the presence (Control) or absence of 5 U/ml rhEPO for 48 h. The levels of IFN-γ (A), TNF (B), and IL-10 (C) were quantified by ELISA. Results are mean ± SEM of three three independent experiments. # indicates statistically significant difference ($P < 0.05$).