



CHICKEN BANQUET MINERAL BLOCK

ITEM# BB-CKL

- Zoo Med's Chicken Banquet Mineral Block is designed for backyard laying hens to add necessary calcium to your bird's diet while also allowing for natural pecking behavior. This formula contains a mixture of dried mealworms and nutritious grains and seeds (organic corn, organic milo, organic wheat, and sunflower seeds) in a solid calcium base.
- Great source of calcium for the optimum bone health and egg production of your birds.
- Provides enrichment and allows for natural pecking behavior.
- May help reduce aggression within your flock by providing the more dominant hens with an alternative pecking target.

CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

For several years, Zoo Med headquarters has not only been home to reptiles, amphibians, and fish, but also to a flock of laying hens. Throughout their time with Zoo Med, these hens have laid countless numbers of eggs with the help of their daily diet consisting of pellets, seeds, produce, and insects. But Zoo Med is always looking to improve animal husbandry, whether it be for scaly or feathery friends, so we asked ourselves, "What more we can do to enrich the lives of our laying hens?"

One of the most well-known behaviors of chickens is pecking. Pecking provides multiple benefits including beak trimming, an outlet for destructive behavior, and a source of enrichment. Just like our own hair and nails, chickens' beaks are continuously growing, meaning chickens need a way to keep them trim and pecking is an excellent remedy! Chickens are also natural flocking creatures – they prefer to live in groups, finding safety in numbers. As with most group dynamics, laying hens establish a hierarchy, and sometimes the dominant hen can become a little too stern with her submissive flock. Finding something to peck at can keep the hen's attention focused on something more productive. Additionally, chickens are inquisitive creatures that enjoy investigating things and what better way to do so than to peck!

After watching the behavior of our laying hens with their treats, we realized the frenzied pecking display of excitement was over in mere minutes, which prompted us to ask "How can we provide a longer pecking and foraging experience?" And with that, the Chicken Banquet Block sprang to mind! The Chicken Banquet Block is a solid calcium base filled with a mixture of seeds, grains, and mealworms that also line the top for extra enticement. The calcium base allows for natural pecking behavior that provides the birds with additional calcium for optimal bone health and egg production, as well as their favorite treats!

