

Belman Laboratories veterinarians Dr. Dante Tuyay & Dr. Alexander Aggasid regularly receive inquiries through the ASK YOUR VET! hotline and email. This month, we feature the most frequently asked question by our callers/ texters.

Why do fighting cocks need calcium supplements?

Don't they get enough minerals from grains?



Calcium is one of the most important elements in the diet because it is a structural component of bone, teeth, and soft tissue. It also plays an essential role in the body's metabolic processes. Calcium accounts for 1-2% of the total body weight of the fowl, 98-99% of which is stored in the bones and beak.

On a cellular level, calcium is used to regulate the permeability and electrical properties of the biological membranes (such as the cell wall), which in turn control muscle and nerve functions, glandular secretions, and blood vessel dilation and contraction. Calcium is also necessary for proper blood clotting.

Because of its biological importance, calcium levels are carefully controlled in various parts of the body by the following regulators:

Parathyroid Hormone (PTH)

The PTH is normally released by the four parathyroid glands in the neck in response to low calcium levels in the blood stream (hypocalcemia). It acts in 3 main ways:

1. PTH prompts the gastrointestinal tract to increase calcium absorption from food.
2. It causes the bones to release some of their calcium stores.
3. It also stimulates the excretion of phosphorus by the kidneys, which indirectly raises calcium levels.

Vitamin D3

Vitamin D3 works together with the PTH in the bones and kidneys, and is necessary for the absorption of calcium in the intestines.

Calcitonin

A hormone released by the thyroid, parathyroid, and thymus glands, calcitonin lowers blood levels by promoting the deposition of calcium in the bones.

ASK YOUR VET!

For free guides or advice on raising hogs, poultry, or fighting cocks:
Call or text: 0917 - 530 6528 (Globe)
0908 - 886 7747 (Smart)
0932 - 843 0682 (Sun)
(632) 712 0201 (Landline)
Email: belman.askyourvet@gmail.com

Not enough minerals in grains

It is a common misconception among gamefowl breeders that grains contain all the essential nutrients needed by the bird. Grains are actually low in minerals, so it is necessary to provide supplements. Calcium, phosphorus, and salts are needed in the greatest amounts. These minerals act as catalysts to many biological and metabolic processes in the cock's body and play crucial roles in bone development.

Calcium supplementation is crucial during stress and hardening periods

During stress-related periods, such as breeding season or conditioning before the fight, minerals such as calcium will be absorbed at a faster rate. If calcium levels are inadequate, the body is forced to draw the nutrient from other sources such as the bones, which can result to bone brittleness, poor egg quality, and substandard production. Any illness and physical stress depletes the calcium reserve in the bird's body. Unless replaced by supplementation, calcium deficiencies may occur, manifested by lameness, a stiff-legged gait, and ruffled feathers.

Calcium supplementation is especially crucial during the hardening period, which is about 5-6 months into the life of a battle cock. At this stage, bones are being strengthened before the bird is put into tie-cords. Calcium supplementation will help prevent the malformation of the legs of the cock at this stage.

Calcium supplements help achieve victory

CABONICA CAPLET, a preparation containing Calcium Lactate with Vitamin D3, is an ideal supplement during the hardening stage. It can be given daily at a dose of 1 caplet per head or as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. The excellent tensile strength of a battle cock's bones is a precious advantage inside the pit, and is vital in the fight for victory.

**Dr. Dante Tuyay
& Dr. Alexander
Aggasid,
Belman Laboratories**

CAPLET

CABONICA



**KUMBINASYONG
PANG CHAMPION!**

Garantisadong Epektibo
dahil sa Pinagsamang
Lakas ng

**VITAMIN D +
CALCIUM LACTATE**

