Practical Feeding Recommendations for Pets

How to calculate how much to feed a pet?
• Manufacturers will often provide feeding guidelines on their packaging and/or product guides and web sites
• The guidelines are developed on the needs of an average pet; the true needs of the individual pet can vary by as much as 25% depending on their breed, body composition, environment and activity level
• Work closely with your Banfield veterinarian to determine the specific amount you should be feeding your pet

How often should I feed my pet?
Young puppies and kittens should be fed 4-6 times a day. As the puppy or kitten ages, the number of feedings can be gradually decreased so that by the time they have reached 50% of their adult body weight they are eating three meals a day. Most adult healthy pets should be fed twice a day

How should I store the food for my pet and maintain its freshness?
• Always check the packaging for the best before date
• Purchase the right sized bag of food for your pet (e.g. do not buy a 40 lb of dog food for a Chihuahua)
• Store the food in a cool, dry place and keep the storage bin tightly closed
• Always discard any uneaten food each day and clean the bowl before the next meal
• Opened canned foods should be stored covered in the refrigerator for a maximum of 3 days

What snacks and treats should I give my pet?
• Use treats specifically designed for dogs or cats. Human food should never be used as a treat or snack as they are typically high in calories and fat
• Try to feed only low calorie treats
• Treats should only be used as a reward. Never use treats to distract a dog from an undesirable behavior
• Treats do not have to always be food. Treats can also be tummy rubs, playing with a new toy, etc
• The number of treats that any pet receives should be limited to less than 10% of the daily caloric requirements (and the amount of food fed each day should be reduced accordingly by 10%)

For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.