

# Advanced Diagnostic Tools

## Fecal Bacteria Testing

### IDEXX TECTA



#### Traditional Fecal Bacteria Testing

Traditional fecal bacteria testing, whether by membrane filtration or enzymatic tests, requires 18–24 hours of incubation and a trained analyst to read the results. Strict incubation times can result in reads occurring outside of typical business hours, which will prevent some labs from accepting samples at certain times. Test results can be subjective as what constitutes a positive result can be interpreted differently among different analysts.

#### WHAT IS TECTA?

The TECTA system by IDEXX is a semi-automated fecal bacteria testing unit that does not require in-person reads and can provide results much faster than traditional methods. Using a time-to-detection methodology, results are available once a fluorescence threshold is reached in a sample cartridge, in as little as two hours for highly contaminated samples.

Laboratory analysts simply need to set up the tests, start the instrument, and walk away. The TECTA will send an email to selected recipients as soon as a positive result is achieved, or at the end of the incubation period if the analyte of interest (fecal coliform, *E. coli*, or enterococci) is not detected.

#### Real-Time Data Management

With results available sooner than with the traditional test methods, utilizing the TECTA technology allows decision makers to react to changing conditions much faster.

Management can have increased confidence in the results with the elimination of subjective reads that may be influenced by human error. With the time-to-detection methodology, the passage of a certain amount of incubation time without a positive result can also give decision makers reassurance that bacteria concentrations are under compliance limit.



While EPA approval for the TECTA technology currently covers presence/absence of total coliform and *E. coli* in drinking water, this tool can be utilized in fecal bacteria investigations to determine sources of fecal bacteria contamination as well as disinfection effectiveness. The unit is also mobile and can be easily transported to a facility's on-site laboratory for real-time results.