ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE TESTING

Salmonella, generic *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* antimicrobial susceptibility testing are conducted using the SensititreTM System (Trek Diagnostics, Inc., Westlake, Ohio) as per manufacturers directions. Antimicrobials include those used in both human and veterinary medicine and are configured in a 96 well custom made panel. National Committee for Clinical Standards (NCCLS) guidelines are followed throughout the testing procedure. Quality control strains (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, and *Enterococcus faecalis* 29212) are included in susceptibility testing on a weekly basis.

Campylobacter isolates are evaluated for susceptibility to 8 antimicrobials using the E-Test (AB Biodisk, Piscataway, NJ). Briefly, E-test strips are placed onto 150 mm Mueller Hinton plus 5% lysed horse blood plates (B-D Biosciences) previously swabbed with a suspension of the *Campylobacter* test isolate (density equivalent of 0.5 McFarland standard) prepared from a fresh culture. The plates are incubated for 48 h at 42^{o} C under microaerobic conditions (5% O_2, 10% CO_2 and 85% N_2). Minimum inhibitory concentrations of the antimicrobials are determined by reading the numeric concentration (µg/ml) printed on the strip at the point of growth inhibition. Quality control strains (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923 and *Campylobacter jejuni* ATCC 33560) are included in susceptibility testing on a weekly basis.

References

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