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Irish greyhounds banned from taking Viagra

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Irish greyhound racing authorities have banned trainers from giving dogs the anti-impotence drug Viagra in case it is used to boost their performance on the track, a spokesman said.


John Garrahy, regulations manager at Bord na gCon which oversees the sport in the Irish Republic, told Reuters that Viagra had been added to the list of banned substances two or three months ago.

"I don't think this drug is a problem in the industry," he said. "We've had no positive tests so far and our drug-testing regime is pretty comprehensive."

The Irish Independent newspaper on Wednesday quoted an unnamed trainer as saying Viagra was "the greatest thing since sliced bread".

According to the paper Viagra could be used to raise the dogs' blood pressure and therefore heart rate, making them run faster in the early stages of a race.

Garrahy said random dope tests were carried out at all Irish greyhound meetings. At big events where large amounts are wagered every dog competing is tested.

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