



THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
**OSTEOPATHY** IN **ANIMAL PRACTICE**

**Overview of the Legislative and  
Educational Status of Osteopathy in Animal  
Practice in Italy**

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# European Guidelines

“ IN 1997 the EU Parliament invited its members to recognize and integrate osteopathy and CAMs into the NHS

“ EU funds were earmarked for this purpose (from the Minutes of 29.05.1997)





World Health Organization

# WHO Guidelines

“ In 2002, the WHO included Osteopathy in the CAMs, considering its active role in the maintenance of good health

“ The WHO prompted political actions amongst national communities to regulate and integrate CAMs within the respective National Health Services (AMS62.13)





# WHO Survey

“ In 2008 a WHO survey revealed the number of EU members who have included CAMs in their NHS from 1990 to 2007:

“ From 5 in 1990

“ To 39 in 2003

“ To 48 in 2007



# Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy



World Health  
Organization

## WHO Benchmarks in Osteopathy

“ In 2010 the WHO released the document *Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy*

“ It provided adequate levels & models for training osteopathic practitioners as well as contraindications for safe practice of Osteopathy





## Italian situation



“ in Italy, Osteopathy remains to this day a non-recognized and a non-regulated profession (therefore not included in the NHS)

“ Different bills on the matter are still pending approval by the Italian parliament





# Italian Register of Osteopaths (R.O.I.)

“ The present legislative void has left the osteopathic training and practice merely self-regulated by independent associations/registries, such as R.O.I., that in line with European standards, attempt to:

- “ 1) establish requirements for access to the profession
- “ 2) indicate educational model for schools
- “ 3) work for the recognition and protection of the profession



# Associations of Professionals



“ Under EU prompting, a process is under way in Italy to recognize the Associations of Professionals to guarantee:

- “ Continuing education of their members
- “ Protection for users of Osteopathy
- “ Professional insurance coverage to their members





# Italian Regional Examples

“ The Piedmont Region has been the first in Italy to set rules for the monitoring of osteopathic practice in its territory

“ Following its example, other Italian regions such as Tuscany have been active in organizing, in concert with the Department of Regional Authorities, the enactment of stringent state laws





# Health or well-being?



“ The tendency has been to include Osteopathy in the common box of "bio-natural disciplines", primarily targeting the maintenance of well-being, excluding any reference to health

“ The National Framework Law (Unconventional Medicine and Practices AC 137 - Rapporteur Paolo Lucchese) projected that the osteopathic profession could be practiced independently in its primary form after a five-year university course





## Surveys' results about CAMs

- “ In Italy, **14.5%** of the population makes use of the CAMs (Eurispes 2012)
- “ In the homeopathic and anthroposophic field, there are 30 operating companies, which employ more than **1,200 employees**
- “ Italy is the third largest market in Europe after Germany and France
- “ In 2007, the cost of homeopathic and anthroposophic treatment was approximately **300 million euros**
- “ Through VAT, IRES and IRAP, the revenue of the State in 2007 was **40 million**
- “ **97%** of 3.000 people interviewed reported high satisfaction from osteopathic treatment



# Regulation of non-regulated professions



“ The Chamber of Deputies, in its meeting of April 17, 2012, approved the unified text on the regulation of non-regulated professions, including Osteopathy

“ The proposed law includes 11 articles, with the goal of regulating the profession according to EU standards

“ This marks a step forward on the path of recognition for Osteopathy



Camera  
dei  
Deputati





# UNI and CEN standards

“ The Italian situation is thus moving first in the direction of UNI standard on the profession, in attempt to submit it to the European Committee for Training and become a CEN standard in a few years... therefore valid throughout the European community

“ This means that osteopathy is not a recognized but a normed profession







# Osteopathy in the Veterinary field

“ With regards to Osteopathy applied to the veterinary field a process of regulation and standardization of both the training and the practice of Osteopathy becomes necessary prior to any recognition







**FNOVI**

FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE  
ORDINI VETERINARI ITALIANI

## FNOVI guidelines

“The National Council of the National Federation of the Associations of Veterinarians (FNOVI), states in art. 35 of its Code of Professional Conduct:

“The practice of unconventional medicine in the veterinary field is the sole responsibility of the veterinarian. This is....a non-delegable responsibility”  
(2011)

**Art. 35 – Medicine non convenzionali – La pratica delle Medicine non convenzionali**  
Questa deve essere svolta nel rispetto dei doveri e della dignità professionali e nell





Federation of  
Veterinarians of  
Europe

## Veterinary Act

FVE accepts that some veterinary Acts may be delegated to non-veterinarians but takes the view that such persons should be appropriately trained for what they do.

## FEV guidelines

“ However, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), a representative body for 38 European Countries, accepts the delegation of certain tasks/interventions to veterinary paraprofessional who are technically and legally competent, subject to varying levels of veterinary supervision appropriate to the specific task

“ Such delegation can be encouraged in the interests of the client... ” (FVE/08/doc/009)





Federation of  
Veterinarians of  
Europe

# Veterinary Act

16

However, certain principles should be established first.

- I. interventions may be carried out under the authority of and/or in the presence of the veterinarian
- II. interventions may be carried out under the authority of the veterinarian who is able to intervene in an emergency
- III. interventions carried out in the absence of the veterinarian
- IV. independent or autonomous interventions

- “ Article 16 specifies that they should be defined at least 4 interventions in the possible relationship veterinarians & para-professional:
1. Interventions that could be carried out under the authority and / or in the presence of the veterinarian;
  2. Interventions that could be carried out under the authority of the veterinarian, who is able to intervene in cases of emergency;
  3. Interventions carried out in the absence of a veterinarian
  4. Independent or autonomous interventions





“ However, the prerogative for the veterinary osteopathy, as for the other CAMs, remains the need for scientific studies or academic research aimed to validate its effectiveness





**...THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY!...**



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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