

# Meet Janek Vluggen, DO, MRO, EDO

Founder, Principal Instructor

The Vluggen Institute for Equine Osteopathy and Education



Janek Vluggen is recognized as the leading expert in the field of Equine Osteopathy. As a researcher, sought-after therapist, and popular lecturer for over two decades, he has built a significant following worldwide.

Currently, as the principal instructor for the Vluggen Institute, Janek is dedicated to creating exemplary equine osteopaths through intensive, interactive, and informed education and hands-on experience. In addition to founding the Vluggen Institute, Janek has run a successful private physical therapy and osteopathy practice in Gaesweiler, Germany (recently moved to Aachen) since 1986.

## Background and Education

- Baccalaureate in Physiotherapy, Zuyd University, Heerlen, The Netherlands
- Manual Therapy, Master Course, Antwerpen, Belgium
- D.O. in Osteopathy, The International Academy of Osteopathy, Ghent, Belgium
- Connective Osteopathy, Master Course, Alain Abishira, PhD. of the University of Jerusalem
- Cranio-sacral Therapy, Master Course, Alain Gehin DO, Mr.sc. of Spain
- Fascial Therapy, Master Course, Maurice Cesar DO. Bacc.
- Specialization in neuro-anatomy and neuro-physiology, Rene Zweedijk, Kapelle, Netherlands
- Advanced Equine Anatomy and Equine Physiology, Didier Certain PhD. DVM, Veterinary University of Liege Belgium

Janek's most recent speaking engagements include the AHVMA 2008 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association of Equine Dentistry in Orlando, Florida, and the SAVMA Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

## Why Equine Osteopathy?

It was during their study of human osteopathy at the International Academy of Osteopathy in Belgium that Janek Vluggen and Pasqual Evrard realized the value of its application to horses. The two innovators made a pact to bring Equine Osteopathy to the highest possible standard worldwide.

*From an interview with Janek...*

"We lost sight of each other because we went out to be osteopaths; me in Germany, he in Brussels. He founded the first school in Germany (Dipo Deutches Institut für Pferde Osteopathy and later FISEO: Frankfurter International School of Equine Osteopathy). We met again at a lecture I was giving in the Netherlands at Panta Rhey (of Rene Zweedijk, who gave me the chance to expose this) about Equine Osteopathy. We renewed our friendship and I started teaching with him at the FISEO in Germany and in Florida. This was in 2002. Pascal died in 2004. Luann [Groves, DVM] asked me to come and teach in 2005..."

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[info@vluggeninstitute.com](mailto:info@vluggeninstitute.com) | 512.448.3152