



**Kenton Koszdin**  
LAW OFFICE

*Se habla español*



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KENTON KOSZDIN  
LAW OFFICE

16600 Sherman Way  
Suite 280, Van Nuys  
CA 91406-3785

**Phone:** (818) 901-9999

**Toll Free:** (800) 438-7734

**CONNECT ONLINE**



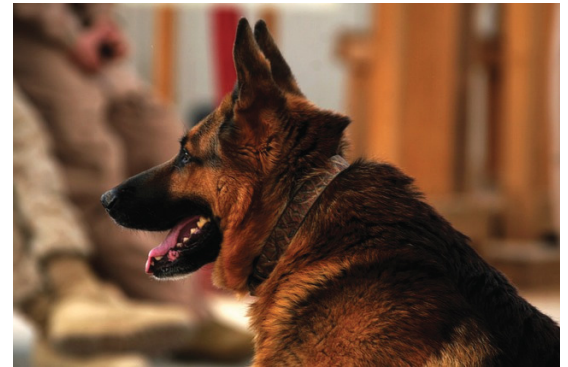
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## Service Animals: Are Their Costs Covered by Medicare or Medicaid?

Service animals are marvelously intelligent aides for those with disabilities. These meticulously trained animals allow individuals with disabilities to live independently, overcome the challenges of day-to-day life and to fully participate in everyday life.

Dogs are the most common service animals, with more than half a million hard at work every day. Dogs can be trained to perform a variety of vital tasks including:



- Providing stability for someone who has difficulty walking
- Picking up items for someone in a wheelchair
- Keeping a child with autism close by
- Alerting a hearing-impaired person that someone is approaching
- Warning a person with diabetes that her blood sugar level is dangerously low
- Protecting a handler who is having a seizure
- Calming someone who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder

Although dogs are the most common service animals, many individuals also use miniature horses, ferrets, monkeys and even potbelly pigs.

### Medicare and Medicaid Do Not Cover Service Animals

Although Medicare and/or Medicaid coverages help meet many healthcare expenses, neither covers the cost of a service animal.

It is costly to train a service animal, ranging from about \$7,000 for performing basic tasks to more than \$20,000 for more intensive training.

Although not covered by federal, state or most private insurance, there are ways of getting an assistance animal even when you are on a tight budget. Many non-profit organizations may be able to provide a trained service animal to those who qualify. Here are a few organizations to consider:

- [Guide Dog Foundation](#)
- [Canine Companions for Independence](#)
- [International Association of Assistance Dog Partners](#)

Many other smaller groups can provide service animals at a reduced cost. [Assistance Dogs International](#) can help source service dogs in your area.

California offers the [Assistance Dog Special Allowance Program](#) to help those with assistance dogs meet the animal's food, grooming and health care expenses.

## From My Blog

### What Is the Relationship Between Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability?

Benefit programs like Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability may seem to offer the same benefit because they provide payments for those who are disabled.

#### These Public Programs Have Different Benefits As Well As Different Eligibility Criteria. Here's How They Work:

##### Workers' Compensation (WC)

Is a state insurance program that covers workers who have suffered a job-related injury or illness. WC is designed to be temporary protection for injured workers while they recover or apply and wait for SSDI payments. Benefits include covering hospital and medical expenses as well as....



[Click here to read more](#)

## The Rose Bowl: Sports with Amazing Tradition

Did you watch the recent Rose Bowl Game on January 1? The game was a real nail-biter and the Oregon Ducks pulled it off to beat Wisconsin Badgers by only one point!

The annual Rose Bowl Game is the oldest, currently operating bowl game, having started in 1902 and played continuously since 1916. But the Rose Bowl itself is much more than an annual football stadium event.

This venerable stadium has an all-seated configuration of 94,542, making it one of the rare stadiums without any benches. The Rose Bowl is the 15th-largest stadium in the world and the 11th-largest in the U.S.

Although the world's attention is focused on the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day thanks to the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade and following game, the Rose Bowl is the chosen venue for many other sporting events including:

- UCLA Bruins football home games
- 5 Super Bowl games, more than any other stadium
- Men and women's World Cup soccer finals
- 1984 Olympic Gold Medal soccer match

But the Rose Bowl is a treasured venue for local events too. Many high schools have held their graduation ceremonies there. Residents and visitors enjoy the monthly Rose Bowl Flea Market, claimed to be the largest on the West Coast.

Concert-goers have reveled in musical acts ranging from U2 and Beyoncé to Taylor Swift and the Rolling Stones. This revered venue has also hosted midget car races, American Idol auditions and international drum corps competitions.

Learn more about the Rose Bowl from one of its [monthly tours](#).



If you or a loved one has been denied [Worker's Compensation](#) or [Social Security Disability \(SSDI\)](#) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800.438.7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The [Kenton Koszdin Law Office](#), [Social Security attorney in Van Nuys](#), can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

# Thoughts of Peace and Unity on This Special Day



## Recipe of the Month

### Chicken with Brussels Sprouts and Apple Cider Sauce

This simple oven roasted chicken recipe soaks up tons of flavor and the fruit and veggies cook simultaneously on another rack, making this dish a snap to prepare.

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved or quartered if large
- 2 sweet apples (such as Gala), cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges (root left intact)
- 2 small sprigs rosemary, plus 1 teaspoon finely chopped leaves
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (about 8 ounces each)
- 2/3 cup apple cider
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar



#### Directions

1. Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven; preheat to 450 degrees F. Toss the Brussels sprouts, apples, red onion and rosemary sprigs with the olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper on a baking sheet. Spread in a single layer and roast on the upper oven rack, flipping halfway through, until tender and browned, 25 to 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, heat 1-tablespoon butter in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Season the chicken on both sides with salt, pepper and the chopped rosemary. Add the chicken to the skillet and cook until browned on the bottom, about 6 minutes. Flip and cook 2 more minutes, then pour the cider into the skillet around the chicken. Transfer to the lower oven rack and roast until just cooked through, 10 to 12 minutes.
3. Transfer the chicken to a cutting board to rest and return the skillet to medium-high heat. Simmer until the pan sauce is reduced by half, about 1 minute. Remove from the heat and swirl in the remaining 1-tablespoon butter and the vinegar; season with salt and pepper.
4. Slice the chicken and divide among plates along with the roasted vegetables and apple. Spoon the sauce over the chicken.

*Recipe courtesy of Food Network Magazine*



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CA 91406-3785  
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## What's Happening in Van Nuys & Southern California

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Jan 31</b><br><u>Golden Dragon Acrobat Circus</u><br>Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts<br>Cerritos, CA                    | <b>Feb 1</b><br><u>Chris Botti</u><br>The Wiltern Theatre<br>Los Angeles, CA  | <b>Feb 7 - 9</b><br><u>One Love Cali Reggae Festival</u><br>Queen Mary<br>Long Beach, CA |
| <b>Feb 1</b><br><u>Cirque FLIP Fabrique: "Blizzard"</u><br>Richard and Karen Carpenter<br>Performing Arts Center<br>Long Beach, CA | <b>Feb 2</b><br><u>Tony Bennett</u><br>Terrace Theater<br>Long Beach Convention and<br>Entertainment Center<br>Long Beach, CA | <b>Feb 29</b><br><u>Trap Wing Festival LA</u><br>Los Angeles, CA                         |
| <b>Feb 1</b><br><u>Beer &amp; Graffiti Festival</u><br>The Canyon<br>Santa Clarita, CA   | <b>Feb 7</b><br><u>Jefferson Starship</u><br>The Rose<br>Pasadena, CA   |  |

