

## CHINESE ZODIAC

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### RAT

Years: 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020



The cheerful, tireless Rat is made welcome everywhere, especially in a work situation. No sign is more diligent than the Rat who will happily scurry in all directions, making observations and progress reports while the rest of us are enjoying our first cup of tea of the day. Quite often, a Rat's motivating force is money-making, something at which they are past masters and mistresses. The mere sniff of a good business opportunity will set their whiskers twitching, and they are probably the most inquisitive of all the signs. This, coupled with a considerable ambitious drive makes them extremely reliable colleagues and also formidable business adversaries.

Homes where a Rat is in residence are warm, friendly places. Rats always put the needs of partners and children before routine chores, and show them a great deal of affection. They are highly sociable people, and need the constant stimulation and reassurance of others around them to make them truly happy.

Rats crave excitement and like to pack as much variety into the day as possible. Of course, there's always the possibility that they will tackle too much, but generally they are well organised. In fact, a word of warning should be issued here. When you visit a Rat's house, take care that you don't go flying as you step over the threshold. There are liable to be piles of Lists of Things To Do everywhere – completely incomprehensible to anyone but the Rat, who makes good use of them, judging from his success!

Rats never give up once they have got an idea in their heads. If one avenue leads nowhere, they will try a different approach. A Rat, who, for instance, wanted to start a new business, would instinctively know how to handle every aspect, including the best way to advertise the venture.

Routine work is inclined to bore the Rat, and quite a few of our rodent friends are well-suited to self-employment where they can choose their own hours – long ones, usually! Too much of the same thing can make them – well, ratty! The best cure for a fidgety Rat is a nature walk where their X-ray eyes will spot plants and flowers you'd never notice. Alternatively, a trip to a restaurant will satisfy their love of simply observing other people. There is no denying that Rats are charming, persuasive people, often with winning smiles and twinkly eyes. Rats personify natural unpretentious charm which is based on a genuine liking for and interest in others.

Those born in the Year of the Rat are very adaptable and get on well with most people. They are especially drawn to those born in the Year of the Monkey, whose cleverness they will respect, and the Dragon, whose fiery strength makes sure the Rat never gets bored.

