

CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMALS



**THE CRYSTAL LODGE GUIDE TO
THE CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMALS**

INTRODUCTION

Here is your chance to explore the intriguing world of Chinese horoscopes. We, in the West, find it amusing to ask people whether they think they are an Ox, or a Rabbit, or to tell them that they are a Rat or a Pig! But to the Chinese, the idea of a person possessing the characteristics of a symbolic animal is a way of life – part of the traditional wisdom in which they were brought up. The difference between Chinese horoscopes and those we read in newspapers and magazines is that Chinese ones are based on the cycles of the Moon, whereas Western astrology has its basis in the movement of the Sun and constellations.

The Chinese tell an ancient legend that, long before the birth of Christ, the Buddha asked all the animals to celebrate the New Year with him. Only twelve animals answered his invitation, and in gratitude to them, the Buddha named a year in the lunar cycle after each one, in the order in which they arrived. They were the Rat, Ox (sometimes called Buffalo), Tiger, Rabbit (or Cat), Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep (or Goat or Ram), Monkey, Rooster (or Chicken), Dog and Pig (or Boar).

To find out which animal sign you were born under, first look at the table below. However, because the Chinese New Year changes slightly from year to year, but is always at the end of January or the beginning of February, if your birthday falls between 21st January and 19th February, you need to consult the longer chart which shows the exact dates where each year begins.

Chart 1 – simple chart. Please note: If your birthday falls between 21st January and 19th February, you will need to consult the more detailed information in Chart 2.

RAT	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008	2020
OX	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009	2021
TIGER	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010	2022
RABBIT	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011	2023
DRAGON	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012	2024
SNAKE	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013	2025
HORSE	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014	2026
SHEEP	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015	2027
MONKEY	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016	2028
ROOSTER	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017	2029
DOG	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018	2030
PIG	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019	2031



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Chart 2

Start dates of the Chinese New Year (for those born between 21st January and 19th February, it is important that you use the information on this table)

Year	Started / starts on	Animal	Year	Started / starts on	Animal	Year	Started / starts on	Animal
1924	Feb-05	Rat	1960	Jan-28	Rat	1996	Feb-19	Rat
1925	Jan-25	Ox	1961	Feb-15	Ox	1997	Feb-07	Ox
1926	Feb-13	Tiger	1962	Feb-05	Tiger	1998	Jan-28	Tiger
1927	Feb-02	Rabbit	1963	Jan-25	Rabbit	1999	Feb-16	Rabbit
1928	Jan-23	Dragon	1964	Feb-13	Dragon	2000	Feb-05	Dragon
1929	Feb-10	Snake	1965	Feb-02	Snake	2001	Jan-24	Snake
1930	Jan-30	Horse	1966	Jan-21	Horse	2002	Feb-12	Horse
1931	Feb-17	Sheep	1967	Feb-09	Sheep	2003	Feb-01	Sheep
1932	Feb-06	Monkey	1968	Jan-30	Monkey	2004	Jan-22	Monkey
1933	Jan-26	Rooster	1969	Feb-17	Rooster	2005	Feb-09	Rooster
1934	Feb-14	Dog	1970	Feb-06	Dog	2006	Jan-29	Dog
1935	Feb-04	Pig	1971	Jan-27	Pig	2007	Feb-18	Pig
1936	Jan-24	Rat	1972	Feb-15	Rat	2008	Feb-07	Rat
1937	Feb-11	Ox	1973	Feb-03	Ox	2009	Jan-26	Ox
1938	Jan-31	Tiger	1974	Jan-23	Tiger	2010	Feb-14	Tiger
1939	Feb-19	Rabbit	1975	Feb-11	Rabbit	2011	Feb-03	Rabbit
1940	Feb-08	Dragon	1976	Jan-31	Dragon	2012	Jan-23	Dragon
1941	Jan-27	Snake	1977	Feb-18	Snake	2013	Feb-10	Snake
1942	Feb-15	Horse	1978	Feb-07	Horse	2014	Jan-31	Horse
1943	Feb-05	Sheep	1979	Jan-28	Sheep	2015	Feb-19	Sheep
1944	Jan-25	Monkey	1980	Feb-16	Monkey	2016	Feb 08	Monkey
1945	Feb-13	Rooster	1981	Feb-05	Rooster	2017	Jan 28	Rooster
1946	Feb-02	Dog	1982	Jan-25	Dog	2018	Feb 16	Dog
1947	Jan-22	Pig	1983	Feb-13	Pig	2019	Feb 05	Pig
1948	Feb-10	Rat	1984	Feb-02	Rat	2020	Jan-25	Rat
1949	Jan-29	Ox	1985	Feb-20	Ox	2021	Feb-12	Ox
1950	Feb-17	Tiger	1986	Feb-09	Tiger	2022	Feb-01	Tiger
1951	Feb-06	Rabbit	1987	Jan-29	Rabbit	2023	Jan-22	Rabbit
1952	Jan-27	Dragon	1988	Feb-17	Dragon	2024	Feb-10	Dragon
1953	Feb-14	Snake	1989	Feb-06	Snake	2025	Jan-29	Snake
1954	Feb-03	Horse	1990	Jan-27	Horse	2026	Feb-17	Horse
1955	Jan-24	Sheep	1991	Feb-15	Sheep	2027	Feb-06	Sheep
1956	Feb-12	Monkey	1992	Feb-04	Monkey	2028	Jan-26	Monkey
1957	Jan-31	Rooster	1993	Jan-23	Rooster	2029	Feb-13	Rooster
1958	Feb-18	Dog	1994	Feb-10	Dog	2030	Feb-03	Dog
1959	Feb-08	Pig	1995	Jan-31	Pig	2031	Jan-23	Pig

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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.



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OX (BUFFALO)

Years: 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021



Patient and meticulous, the Ox is the reliable one of the Chinese horoscope, toiling around the clock until he or she has achieved his goal. All work and no play may make Jack a dull boy, but it simply sharpens an Ox's keen intelligence. They are ideally suited to routine work and, as they repeatedly carry out their tasks, they become valued experts.

As well as being exceptionally hard-working, the Ox is very particular about time-keeping and will move heaven and earth to keep an appointment. They are also neat and tidy in appearance and spend a good deal of time polishing their halos to brilliant perfection!

The home of the Ox is likely to be somewhat less orderly than his person. This is because he simply cannot bear to throw away anything that might hold a treasured memory. Champagne corks, bus tickets, theatre programmes – as if these aren't enough, the Ox, the ultimate hoarder, will probably have his or her first bib!

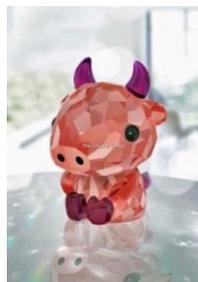
He especially hates to throw out favourite clothes, and by the time he or she has tired of a well-loved costume, it has probably gone out of fashion and come back in style again – not that the Ox is likely to wear anything but classical designs being traditional and conservative by nature.

Oxen are not normally taken by flights of fancy. Their clean, shiny hooves are planted firmly on terra firma, and they like to keep them there. Faced with a new situation or opportunity, they will coolly and rationally weigh up all the pros and cons of going ahead. Similarly, they aren't often swept off their feet (sorry, hooves) by sudden romantic encounters. They will get to know their partner slowly before making promises.

People born in the Year of the Ox can appear a little distant at times, and they require a considerable amount of privacy. They are also extremely self-reliant and it irks them to have to ask other people for help. They are natural leaders and can carry any amount of responsibility on their broad shoulders. They rarely lose their tempers, which is just as well as, when something annoys them, such as their stalwart qualities being taken for granted, they can become quite fearsome beasts!

Our bovine friend tends to hide his light under a bushel, which is a shame because he is disappointed when he isn't noticed as often as the more extrovert signs. However, he should rest assured that he is a vital member of any team, whether at home or at work – as necessary to human happiness as the soil is to the growth of each season's new crops. The Ox is not a risk-taker. It goes against the grain to gamble his hard-won security – anyone relying on an Ox will be glad of this trait.

In partnerships, the Ox is often attracted to the glamorous Rooster, who will bring him excitement. The mysterious Snake will also appeal, with an intuitive wisdom that complements the Ox's great common sense.



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TIGER

Years: 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022



The Tiger is brim-full of imagination and energy. His brain positively overflows with ideas and, unlike some of the more philosophical signs, he has enough practical ability to put them all into action, should he so choose.

All Tigers have it in them to get to the top of their chosen profession, if they have one, and inspire awe in everyone they come into contact with. They like nothing better than to achieve an important goal and unlike the steadfast Ox, they will forge ahead in leaps and bounds into whatever project is flavour of the month with them. At the end of such a session of activity, the Tiger may require a rather long cat nap to recuperate his strength. Because of this you can't rely on him to be on hand just when you want him, but if you leave your name and number, he'll be right with you as soon as he's got his breath back!

Tigers are known for their outstanding courage, which helps them take the sort of calculated risks in business that other people balk at. The Tiger doesn't mind you flinching – he's happy to chance his arm if the odds are good enough.

Tigers also have tremendous organisational ability, and are very good at helping other people get their ideas – whether creative or practical – off the ground. What exciting people to have around!

Tigresses are often striking dressers, unafraid to try something new and possibly startling. In fact, Tigers dislike being overlooked. It's a rare Tiger who won't leap at the chance of being in the limelight, preferably in a starring role.

A natural affinity with children is the gift of both male and female Tigers. Tigers make friends all over the place, and lap up their attention with gusto, especially if they're feeling under the weather. The female Tiger is a noted hostess and can entertain large numbers of people to perfection without getting flustered (well, not too flustered, anyway).

One of the most generous signs of the Chinese horoscope – let's hope your bank manager is one – Tigers care a great deal about the plight of people less fortunate than themselves, and one of the most useful ways of employing their enormous energy is in fund-raising for charity.

No Tiger, Tigress or indeed Tiger cub likes to be rushed into a decision. True, they can be impetuous, but when faced with a complicated problem, they will see all sides, but no solution. Never mind, that's the time your Tiger pal will appreciate you most, and by the time he or she has lavished his thanks on you, you'll both feel like a million dollars!

Tigers frequently get on extra well with the faithful Dog, and the adventurous Horse.



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RABBIT

Years: 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023



The Rabbit's home is his beloved castle. He is never happier than when he is putting his feet up and relaxing in his own congenial surroundings. Not for him the hurly burly of life. He will avoid confrontations at all costs, and if he feels his inner peace is threatened he will retreat to his bolt hole at top speed – and Rabbits can run fast!

The Rabbit is never a trouble-maker and cannot understand people who constantly get into scrapes and disputes over unimportant matters. Diplomacy is their greatest asset and they are well-equipped to smooth the ruffled feathers of the more volatile signs (the Rooster, for instance). Always polite, never noisy or bumptious, the Rabbit usually gets his own way without having to fight for it. In fact, fighting is the last thing Rabbits would contemplate in any circumstances, being quiet, peaceful creatures.

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are remarkably good listeners and, because they are possessed of sound common sense, are frequently sought out to give advice.

Rabbits – especially lady ones – are extremely sociable, and enjoy getting together with friends. They have refined tastes, and like the best of everything. Not surprisingly, wining and dining come fairly high on their list of hobbies. At the same time, they are often quite shy and secretive, keeping their opinions to themselves rather than risk inviting criticism, something they dislike intensely.

It is considered to be rather lucky to be born under the sign of the Rabbit. By hook or by crook they always manage to dodge round awkward situations and avoid too much stress. Although cautious, they have a clear idea of what they want out of life – a cosy den and a fresh supply of lettuce? – And how to get it. Highly ambitious, Rabbits will carefully plan their strategy for success and systematically follow it through. In fact, Rabbits can't really fail, since they are such marvellous planners and survivors.

They are very gentle and loving with their families, but few people ever share the deepest thoughts of a Rabbit. This is only to be expected since some of their thoughts are very deep indeed.

Rabbits have impeccable taste in clothes and furnishings, but ease and comfort will always be placed before high fashion. They have an inbuilt sense of style which helps them look smart in the most casual of outfits. No wonder some of them have just a hint of vanity!

Rabbits rarely lose their tempers. Instead they will say nothing, and consequently they might appear detached and disinterested. It's really just their way of upholding their motto, which is: "Anything for a quiet life" – and who can blame them?

Rabbits and Sheep are usually very good chums, as they both love refinement, while the modest Pig is just the Rabbit's cup of tea when it comes to pleasant, quiet company.



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DRAGON

Years: 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024



The person born in the Year of the Dragon has the opportunity to make whatever he wishes of himself. To the Chinese people, the Dragon is a national emblem, symbolising a magical, all-encompassing intelligence. Dragons are indeed clever, resourceful people, capable of succeeding in whatever area they seek – and don't they know it! They are fully aware of their own abilities (Dragons are never good at just one thing) and once they've started to climb, the sky's the limit.

Dragons are not self-centred people. The marvellous thing about them is that their confidence is contagious. Spend time in the company of a Dragon and suddenly the world is an exciting colourful place teeming with opportunities to learn and achieve whatever you wish. If, for example, a Dragon takes up a new hobby, they will do it with such apparent ease that suddenly all their friends may want to do the same. They will help them all they can, for they have endless patience with those they are fond of.

On the subject of dress, you'll rarely meet a Dragon who's a slave to fashion. Why wear what someone else dictates when you are quite capable of finding the best thing to suit yourself? That said Dragons are not flamboyant dressers. Simpler, functional clothes are their taste, as a rule.

It must be stated that the Dragon is somewhat lacking in diplomacy. They loathe hypocrisy and will never tell a lie – even a white-one – so don't expect enthusiasm over your new hairdo if it's not to the Dragon's liking. Never mind that you're quite happy with it!

Dragons are a little impatient when dealing with people who don't share their love of hard work. Born perfectionists, they cannot understand those who give up easily. The Dragon knows that there is always a solution to a problem; it's simply a question of carrying on until it is found.

The Dragon has a large appetite for life – eating, socialising and generally enjoying himself. But he firmly believes that hard work should come before relaxation.

Above all, the Dragon loves his freedom. Not for him the tie of a set routine. A restricting environment will soon have him breathing fire. But once he has found his path in life – one without too many gates and fences – he will blossom. The air around a fulfilled Dragon positively crackles with creative energy. They should always set their sights as high as possible. It makes them miserable to accept second best.

One of the nicest traits about the powerful, competent Dragon is his ability to forgive. No one is bigger-hearted when it comes to forgetting petty squabbles and misunderstandings – just as long as you don't laugh at him. The Dragon believes in himself one hundred per cent, so if you can't think of anything encouraging to say, you'd better stay out of his lair!

Dragons find it easy to get on with most people, but have a special affinity with the clever, playful Monkey and also the friendly Rat.



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SNAKE

Years: 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025



The Snake is the philosopher of the Chinese horoscope. He possesses a profound wisdom which enables him to make decisions based entirely on his own intuition. As a matter of fact, the Snake doesn't really know the meaning of logic, and is altogether a bit of a puzzle to others. Some people may secretly have a little chuckle behind the Snake's back, wondering how he can be so sure about something or other that he doesn't even understand. But come the day when they need the benefit

of the Snake's extraordinary perception and they will be grateful that their reptilian pal can illuminate a problem in a way that is positively spooky! Although the Snake often gets involved with the mystical side of life, he also has a strong sense of responsibility, and may well dedicate all his time to the righting of wrongs.

Snakes are surprisingly reluctant to part with their money, for all their spiritual ideals. Prise open their purse or wallet and you could discover a moth in there which has been waiting or months to escape! It's probably for this reason that they aren't partial to gambling. It's just as well, really, as they have little aptitude for it. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush is the rule they live their lives by.

Snakes are sensitive people and some may live on their nerves. Once they learn to accept this as a help not a hindrance, both to themselves and others, they can channel this gift to good effect. Some of the best musicians and artists are Snakes – and those who fancy themselves as fortune-tellers can always earn a good living on the end of the pier!

It might be thought that Snakes are weird types, trailing beads and long hair, and wearing sandals in the middle of winter. They're actually rather smart people. Many a lady Snake has a following of admiring gentlemen, something to which she is not averse.

The Snake has great tenacity, especially when his or her beady eyes have spotted someone rather to their liking. If the object of their affections hasn't quite got the message, they will feel the pinch of a possessive Snake stranglehold!

Snakes also have exceedingly long memories, and a tendency to harbour grudges. However, they have a highly developed sense of humour and can be counted on to crack a joke or ten at the drop of a hat. Somehow they seem to see it is as their special duty to cheer things up, especially in a crisis, or when the going gets a little tough.

Snakes are not cold people, as a rule. Their closest resemblance to a living specimen of their sign is the ability to throw off problems as though they were shedding a skin, emerging stronger and fitter when the trauma is over. What a useful knack!

For partnerships, the Snake will like being able to depend on the solid Ox, while the sparkling, irrepressible Rooster will sure he stays optimistic.



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HORSE

Years: 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026



If you were born in the Year of the Horse, you have been blessed with a strong personality, one which appeals to many people. You have also been blessed with an abundance of energy, and it's a wonder you've settled down long enough to read this! Horses are adventurous, practical and hard-working, with strong powers of leadership. Many Horses find themselves speaking in public at some time in their lives and really rather enjoy it. It seems to come quite naturally to them to exert

authority, and they never abuse the power they've been given.

All Horses are attractive in some way. Even if not a classic beauty, they will have a certain something which makes them striking.

The lady Horse is quite daring when it comes to trying out new fashions and could startle her more cautious Ox sister with her bold, bright creations. Not for her a neutral colour scheme which blends in with the furniture!

The Horse has a very nimble mind and can grasp facts with lightning speed. Actually, facts are almost the only things which count to a Horse. They are extremely logical people and find it ways to make decisions. The Horse is also remarkably good at assessing the outcome of a situation. He simply feeds all the relevant facts into his personal computer – his brilliant mind – and comes up with what is to him, the obvious outcome. Simple, isn't it?

Woe betide anyone who tries to catch out a Horse, especially in business. They rarely make mistakes. If a Horse ever does come a cropper, you'll probably hear a cheer go up amongst his or her colleagues – not out of malice, but out of sheer relief that the Horse isn't infallible after all.

Horses are extremely independent and don't settle all that well into routines. They are, however, methodical, and don't mind how many hours they put into a task. Adept at most things, they combine adaptability with great stamina. No wonder they often go to the top of their tree.

People born in the Year of the Horse like to play hard as well as work hard. They thoroughly enjoy a lively party, preferably one held at their own stable. They can be quite partial to a gossip, too. There's nothing devious about the Horse, and so they're not always too hot at keeping secrets. They can be a mine of entertaining information, though.

They have a highly individual sense of humour, which helps them get through life without having to be too pushy. They can make an order sound so pleasant!

Altogether they are very popular people, and are often especially chummy with the exciting Tiger and the faithful Dog, who will always help a Horse in his exploits.



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SHEEP / GOAT / RAM

Years: 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027



Sheep are kind and gentle and are always concerned about the welfare of others. Emotional by nature, they are easily moved by tales of woe, and will drop everything to answer a distress call from a friend, or indeed a stranger. Their compassion extends to animals, too, and they often make devoted pet-owners.

Because Sheep feel everything so deeply, they too sometimes need the sympathy of a friend. They won't make a song and dance about it, but you'll be able to tell they're in need when those plaintive bleats start coming down the telephone!

Sheep are not loud, aggressive people. Everything they achieve in life is done through watching, waiting and talking nicely to people. They don't always have to struggle as hard for material things as other horoscope signs, and fortune may shine on them to a remarkable extent.

They have a particular fondness for anything beautiful and many are collectors of fine objects. They love colour and are never happy in drab surroundings. They don't have to spend a lot to cheer themselves up (although they frequently do!) A bunch of their favourite flowers will please them more than anything, especially if they're given by a loyal friend.

The Sheep person hates being bossed around. They can't see the need for it as they know they'll get everything done in their own sweet time. As bosses themselves, they will be very considerate, always having time to listen to the troubles of their colleagues.

One trait common to both ewes and rams alike is that they rarely complain openly. No matter how injured they feel, they won't say so out loud. They are more likely to go very, very quiet, and expect you to realise what has upset them. Sooner or later you will, for a Sheep scorned is a sorry sight! They will recover with remarkable speed if you pamper them with plenty of care, and will take the trouble to show you their gratitude.

The female of the species is a romantic lady indeed. She will probably like to read love stories until they're coming out of her ears, and will demand from her real-life partner that she too be wined and dined in the moonlight. Let's hope her woolly coat is warm enough for those chilly evenings! She may also be something of a flirt, and knows instinctively how to get men to do her bidding

The Sheep isn't the best timekeeper in the world, but their intentions are always good, so they can be forgiven. Actually, it's easy to forgive a Sheep anything, for they mean well. They always retain strong links with each and every member of their family, and lavish them regularly with gifts. Sometimes they lavish themselves with gifts too, but since they're such lucky people, let's hope they can afford it!

The Sheep enjoys the company of both the Pig and the Tiger, who will both try to make sure the Sheep looks on the bright side.



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MONKEY

Years: 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028



Charming, cheeky and above all, clever, the Monkey knows every trick in the book when it comes to making things go his or her own way. Constantly adapting to the changing circumstances around them, Monkeys are never at a loss as to how to cope with life. Their flexibility is their great strength. It allows them to go into risky ventures, then change course rapidly if events appear to be turning out to their disadvantage.

Monkeys learn extremely fast, and are never afraid to take on a new challenge. In fact, if things are getting a little dull around them, they will actively seek out adventure. The more complex and difficult a problem, the more they can show off their abilities. If their plans should go completely wrong, the Monkey will simply cut his losses and make his escape, unscathed. He never lets failure get him down.

Well-loved for his cheerful, open-hearted ways, the Monkey is often a bit of a comedian. Take him to a serious public meeting and you will probably find him having a quiet chuckle to himself at the back of hall if he thinks things are getting a little too pompous for his liking. He is no fearer of authority, and often knows that he is just as good if not better than his so-called superiors. He's not afraid to show it, either!

The Monkey rarely worries about what other people think of him. He doesn't need flattery to make him feel worthwhile. He knows that he's been born clever and thoroughly enjoys all the fun and fulfilment that his talents bring him! Many Monkeys are good actors. They often have a natural gift for words, and a curious ability to change their outward guise. They aren't called cunning for nothing!

A person born in the Year of the Monkey loves anything new, and has little time for people who wallow in nostalgia. They can be good at anything they attempt, being gifted both with their minds and their hands. Many an inventor of a useful gadget is a Monkey.

The lady Monkey will often dress to attract attention. She sees no virtue in being a retiring flower – especially a wallflower! Because she loves anything new, she will often make a point of studying up-and-coming fashions. This isn't only so that she can stand out in a crowd, but simply because she enjoys any kind of novelty.

For all his apparent self-confidence, the Monkey is sometimes a little suspicious of others, which may lead him to be over-critical. However, this does mean that he is never taken in by unscrupulous people, and his sense of humour enables him to tolerate the idiosyncrasies of others.

Monkeys truly are a barrel-load of fun, always friendly and vivacious. Life with a Monkey in the vicinity will ensure that's never a dull moment.

They get on very well with the Rat, who is always on the look-out for an opportunity to make money. The Dragon, too, will be drawn to the Monkey, who is his equal when it comes to cleverness.



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ROOSTER (CHICKEN)

Years: 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029



The Rooster is honest and trustworthy through and through. He or she never tells lies or hides behind a false façade. In fact, they never hide behind anything if they can help it.

The Rooster loves to be the centre of attention! They always manage to project their personalities on to those around them, and if they're still not taken enough notice of, they will crow loudly until they are acknowledged!

No one is better organised than the Rooster. They are ideally suited to activities such as rearranging office routines, drawing up rotas for taking children to school, and generally making workable plans. They are also good, patient teachers and have marvellous memories.

The Rooster is not a person to make weak, watery decisions, or to compromise in any way. They are particularly blunt when it comes to giving advice to other people, something they will often do without being asked. (And jolly good advice it usually is too!) They see no reason why they should pull their punches since in their opinion it is always a good thing to face reality.

Roosters never stop thinking up new schemes, quite often for making money. Many of our feathered friends are very gifted, not only in creative areas, but also in managerial skills. In this way, they can capitalise on their own talents and draw other people into their projects with great enthusiasm.

Although the Rooster likes to make a grand entrance and is, at times, a bit of a show-off, he is always sincere in his dealings with others. He often has a conservative nature and a strong set of moral values. He will happily stand up and be counted, and always follows his own heart, not the wishes of the majority, over something he firmly believes is right.

The lady Rooster dresses stylishly but in a way that reflects her serious approach to life. She won't try to draw attention to herself through her dress (she'll find some other way to do that, one which reflects her strong mind!) Roosters love their homes, and are usually keen gardeners, with noticeably green fingers. They are often adept at DIY, though they are inclined to get over-enthusiastic at times and bite off more than they can chew. Know someone with a half-completed greenhouse, a lean-to that's never stopped leaning or a living room that's been due for its second coat of paint for a year? Chances are they're a Rooster.

Despite his outward flamboyance, the Rooster is often rather set in his ways. He is also generous with other people and extremely faithful to friends, family and colleagues. In any situation, whether at work or at home, his unsurpassable capacity for hard work is always highly valued.

The Rooster is a superb student, at any stage of his life. He absorbs facts like a sponge and organises them in the filing system of his brain for future use. The intuitive Snake is a good balance for his intellectual mind.



CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMALS

DOG

Years: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030



When we think of our four-legged friend, the dog, we automatically picture its undemanding devotion. In many ways, people born in the Year of the Dog are similar. They will go on caring for others, sometimes to the exclusion of their own needs – though most of them require more than a pat on the head or a crunchy biscuit for their pains!

Loyalty is the strongest and most noticeable quality in the person born under this sign, and you can trust a Dog with your closest secrets.

Honestly, it's a wonder some Dogs don't sprout wings. They like nothing better than being of assistance to people in need. No task is too great or small for them to undertake, for they don't suffer an excess of pride. You'll find them doing their neighbour's shopping, decorating an elderly person's flat, cleaning their granny's fish pond – all for the pleasure of it. Three cheers for Dogs!

People born in the Year of the Dog make excellent medical professionals, combining practical help and sympathy, and they are the first to offer help in times of crisis. They are especially devoted to their families, who can always rely on them for support.

Dogs sometimes encounter problems when they get a bee in their bonnet about some injustice they have seen in the world and which they just know they can put right. At times they have to learn patience, and to set an example of good behaviour if they can't force someone else to change their ways.

If you know someone born under this sign, you'll probably have noticed their surprisingly fearless streak. While other people are still worrying and dithering about the consequences of trying something new, the Dog has jumped in, paws first, and is waiting for the next exciting adventure.

This is particularly true if someone else is relying on their courage. They will take a ride on the scariest ghost train if it will please a young relative, or stand up at a public meeting to express an opinion about local amenities, if they feel the community will benefit. Never mind that their poor knees are trembling with fear. Other people's needs always – well, nearly always – come first with the Dog.

Of course, even Dogs have their limits, and if their loyalty and trust are abused, they can get quite snappy. And because dishonesty is alien to their natures, people born under this sign don't beat about the bush when it comes to delivering a piece of criticism in order to keep a friend or relative on the straight and narrow - something they rather enjoy doing. They also have a tendency to slot people into categories, which can be a little frustrating to those who regard themselves as unique individuals!

Dogs don't always find it easy to reach decisions, and are not always keen to take the lead – they're more used to being led.

But for true friendship, Dogs are unbeatable, whatever their breed! The lively Horse and the exciting Tiger suit them best.



CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMALS

PIG (BOAR)

Years: 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031



Behind many a great person there is a Pig, maybe several, putting in the spade-work and being supportive while others go on to achieve fame and fortune. The Pig is a strong, straightforward, trusting individual who gives of himself unstintingly, for no other reason than to see a job well done.

They have a pure, innocent quality and aim to bring harmony and accord to every situation they encounter. They are patient and kind and hate to upset people. Even when they ought to be giving firm advice to a friend or colleague, they will do it so gently that the recipient of their words will probably go away thinking they've been paid a compliment! Pigs themselves do not like receiving criticism, which is a small but noticeable chink in their otherwise formidable armour.

Pigs, whilst not perhaps the deepest thinkers of the Chinese horoscope, have the sincerest of motives at all times. They have a capacity to forgive and forget slights, and are also blessed with the fortunate gift of being able to override difficulties. They are, for all their gentleness, remarkably resilient and don't let setbacks hold up their progress for long

Year of the Pig people hate to argue, and equally loathe being witness to other people's disputes. They like everyone to get on peacefully together and always calm troubled waters if they can. They will probably do this in an unobtrusive way, behind the scenes, because they'd rather stay out of the crossfire if possible!

The lady Pig particularly loves looking after her family. She considers it not only a pleasure but an honour to play a part in their comfort and achievements, and is often somewhat less career orientated than some of the other signs.

The Pig is usually generous with his or her money, which may have something to do with the fact that they are often quite lucky throughout their lifetimes. They are very sociable people, and if a party is held at their home, they will happily plunge into all the planning and arranging. Some Pigs make good leaders, but equally they like to be part of a team. A typical Pig would probably be the person who makes all the refreshments for a public meeting or concert, while the other signs are in the limelight doing all the debating or acting. A Dog will always, help them with the washing-up though! Pigs are also good fund-raisers, and many of them do a lot of work for charity. No wonder Pigs are so popular!

There is a perfect serenity about the Pig. True, they can lose their tempers quickly on occasion, but will equally quickly seek to make up, as they long for a calm atmosphere to prevail wherever they are. They will bend over backwards to see the other person's point of view, and are always eager to know the reasons why other people behave as they do.

The Pig is happiest with the other gentle, peaceful horoscope signs, such as the Rabbit and the Sheep.

