

Year of the Dog forecasts

To find out what sign and element apply to you, turn to page 20 and look up your date of birth.

By Madame Mingmei
Special to The Asian Reporter

The Rat

The Year of the Dog is looking to be a mixed bag for Rats. Although your desires are attainable, you will need to run through a maze of challenges to achieve them. Hard-working Rats who practice patience will be successful.



■ **Metal Rat:** You are burning the candle at both ends, Metal Rat. Take time from your busy schedule to reconnect with loved ones. They may be feeling lonely and left out of your life.

■ **Water Rat:** The stresses of the year can be held at bay

by taking a break now and again. If finances allow, a vacation will give you a much needed boost. Rats on a budget may achieve the same effect by exploring new experiences locally.

■ **Wood Rat:** When you run up against obstacles this year, seek a mentor for help, though you may have to swallow your pride to do it. Asking for assistance from someone with experience and listening to their advice will aid you greatly in achieving your goals.

■ **Fire Rat:** Your personal life may begin to feel a bit

tense, Fire Rat. Be sure to watch your words; a little diplomacy can go a long way to sooth ruffled feathers and bring harmony back.

■ **Earth Rat:** Keep an eye on investments and take care to spend wisely. The year's challenges may include some financial hiccups, so prepare for lean times.

The Ox

Overall, the Dog Year is shaping up to be a good one for Oxen. However, keep a leash on your anger, Ox, lest it alienate loved ones or friends. One strategy is to plow the energy from your ire into physical activity, which will calm you and lead to better health and smoother relationships.



■ **Metal Ox:** Your diligence and hard work will bring positive attention. Avoid false modesty and take credit for your accomplishments. You have earned it.

■ **Water Ox:** Cultivate the healthy relationships in your life. Toxic ones may bring you down this year, so be sure to remove them. Trust your gut to guide you on which relationships are worth your energy.

■ **Wood Ox:** Practice some self-care this year, Wood Ox. Going nonstop will take its toll on your mental health and physical wellbeing. Also pay attention to what your body

is trying to tell you.

■ **Fire Ox:** Take a chance this year and go after that goal you've been dreaming of. Though it may be hard to break out of your routines, the Year of the Dog is promising for new beginnings.

■ **Earth Ox:** Be patient with those around you that you feel are falling short of your high standards. Loved ones need a little understanding and patience in order to find their groove.

The Tiger

It's a tail-wagging year, Tiger! In the Year of the Dog, you'll reap the rewards of all your effort and hard work of the last year or so. Bask in your accomplishments and take a little time to relax. It's about time!



■ **Metal Tiger:** Don't allow small distractions to take you away from the bigger picture. You'll lose valuable time and momentum if you are not careful. Stay focused on your true goals, as they will soon be within your claws.

■ **Water Tiger:** In this year of plenty, why not lend a paw to those who are less fortunate, whether they are in your inner circle or your larger community. Raising up others will not only help them, but will bring you joy and satisfaction as well.

■ **Wood Tiger:** Avoid venting your frustrations with those around you, Wood Tiger. Although in the short term it may make you feel better, you may alienate the people who are close to you, which might make matters worse in the long run. Instead, try asking for help to bring a fresh perspective to your problems.

■ **Fire Tiger:** It's going to be a great year for romance, Fire Tiger! Single Tigers should get out and socialize to meet a special someone, while partnered Tigers should make sure to spend time with important people in their life to deepen relationships.

■ **Earth Tiger:** While your income on the whole should go up this year, there may be some unexpected losses ahead. Be judicious in spending and sock away a little money for when times are lean. When that happens, just hang on, Earth Tiger, because better times are ahead.

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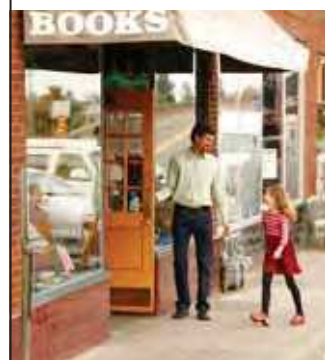
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