

Signs of the year

The lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon, is used to determine the 12-year cycle of the Chinese New Year. The year of 2006 is the year of the dog. According to one legend, each animal represents the twelve animals that honored Buddha's request to meet him on the new year before he departed earth. The animal zodiac signs, a folk method for naming the years in traditional China, are repeated every twelve years. Supposedly, people born in the particular year of the animal share the traits, which include:



DOG

Loyal, honest and good keeper of secrets, but plagued by constant worry and have a sharp tongue.



BOAR

Intellectual and gracious with tremendous courage; quick-tempered.



RAT

Imaginative, charming and generous to those they love, with the tendency to be quick-tempered and overly critical.



OX

Patient, inspire confidence in others and tend to be eccentric and easily angered.



TIGER

Sensitive, capable of great love while also bold, adventurous and bestowed with initiative and charm.



RABBIT

Articulate, talented and ambitious yet can get too sentimental and seem superficial.



DRAGON

Popular, energetic, sensitive as well as excitable, short-tempered and stubborn.



SNAKE

Romantic, deep thinkers; often vain and a bit stingy.



HORSE

Cheerful, very independent, perceptive, impatient and hot-blooded.



RAM

Elegant, shy, pessimistic; can be clumsy in speech and puzzled about life.



MONKEY

Intelligent, flexible, strong-willed but can become discouraged and leave projects.



ROOSTER

Hard-working, shrewd, talented loners; emotions swing very high to very low.