



**"To be followed home by a stray dog is a sign of impending wealth."**

*Chinese proverb*



**WILL THE DOG WAG ITS TAIL?**

Each Chinese New Year is characterized by one of 12 animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac.

This year is the Year of the Dog, the eleventh animal in the cycle which begins on Friday 16th February next week. According to the Chinese Five Elements (Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth) dog belongs to the Earth group. The color of Earth is connected to brown. Therefore, 2018 is the year of the **Brown Earth Dog**.

In general, Dog years are believed to be **good for but turbulent years** in the Chinese calendar.

The Earth element is connected to the mountain. **Mountain Dog might be a wild dog**, so markets may fluctuate wildly. Dog years are usually bringing numerous changes, good and bad. Although, they are normally growth years for economy, the earth element this year prompts to volatility in stock markets and/or currencies (Wall Street, Asian & European stock markets plunged, while Bitcoin lost half its value earlier this week), hence one should take extra care with investments this year.

In the Chinese astrology the Dog is a symbol of honesty & loyalty, thus fortune will come to those who decide to choose honesty and fairness in their dealings.

Feng Shui experts suggest that companies ensuring the welfare and health of their consumers, particularly through increased investments in the areas of recycling (**such as Green Ship Recycling**) and renewable energy, will be rewarded with increased revenues.

**The element is not favouring Shipping this year as Water is afraid of Earth, however the Dog is a natural swimmer. During the previous Dog year back in 2006 (Fire Dog), the Shipping industry experienced a historical boom.**

Regardless of what's coming, we would like to wish all our Far Eastern readers **to be happy like a dog with 2 tails this year – Gong Xi Fa Cai 新年快乐!**



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