



A Dog's Life

狗吠不惊 gǒu fèi bù jīng. They say it is, sometimes I wonder as there seems to be a lot to worry about these days. They always say we are faithful and loyal; great watchdogs and we dogs like to be active! Barking at strangers (but there aren't many postmen anymore) and one of the highlights of our day – chasing cars or hugging trees (and it is the year of the Earth Dog this time around).

Dog Days - the year kicks off on 16 February and will be usurped by the Pig when he puts his snout in on 5 February 2019.

There's life in the old Dog - We have a keen instinct for social justice and we want to be fair to all (except cats). I think that people ought to spend time reflecting on past mistakes – personally and in a broader sense. Many question policies about invasions of other countries and wars. Our 'bone' is a worthwhile cause.

As we like trees, the environment is a hot topic (as it was 12 years ago). A major conference in Poland in December will make some tough decisions about what climate change is doing to man- and dog-kind. Dog Years have been known to see environmental disasters and we are not howling at the moon! Speaking of the Moon, Chang'e 4 a lunar exploration mission will launch late in 2018 in China.

We like to be dogmatic about prevention of disease and broader health issues. Vaccinations or the continuing debate about them is enough to keep us in the dog house!

Dogs are security conscious and want

to provide for their families. It is not a year for extravagance. Money is important but it is just a tool, after all and Dog years can be good for growth but can also see corrections in markets – so keep those watchdog instincts active. Important to us is the security of our property and we anxiously patrol for signs of danger.

We like a bit of peace and quiet too. But as the idiom above goes (gǒu fèi bù jīng), when we bark occasionally it should not be a cause for alarm, it indicates that society is peaceful and stable. Let's use that as a theme for 2018, when we hope, peace and harmony can be restored to our earth.

Dog's breakfast - it shouldn't happen to man's best friend, but we can be self-righteous, irritable, stubborn, critical of others and not good at socialising to heel. Not only that – we can get dogged down in theory.

Dog years can also have a dark side for people who don't listen to advice and are hypersensitive – they can bite back! This can turn into a 'dog-eat-dog' attitude – many an uprising started in a Dog Year.

Working Dogs - if we were humans, I reckon we'd be good in the helping professions due to our humanitarian, shaggy dog instincts: nursing, teaching, pastoral care of our flock; in justice, medicine, even science as we do have plenty of curiosity and we can learn new tricks. We are good leaders (with some exceptions, it seems) and we like to have a purpose and people who need us – underdogs are our speciality – we thrive in helping others in difficulty.

We are good listeners, can keep secrets, and with our honed instincts are usually good judges of humans. We always finish what we start – let that be our message for 2018.

TOP DOGS

- President Donald Trump - one might say 'gives a dog a bad name', but also in the 'dog' house is Melania Trump and his youngest son!
- In fact American presidents abound: Bill Clinton and George W Bush are Dogs too.
- Confucius (551 BC-479BC), Xuan Zang (602-664), Sun Quan (182-252) Great Emperor of Wu, Zhou Enlai (1898-1976) former Premier of China.
- Running Dogs: Li Na, Daria Gavrilova, David Ferrer, Kyle Edmund, Evina Svitolina, Saisai Zheng, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, Ian Thorpe; Cricketers Glenn McGrath, Tony Greig, Belinda Clark, George Bailey, James Anderson.
- Pollies: Peter Dutton, Mathias Cormann, Richard di Natale, Michaelia Cash, David Feeney and Mark Butler.
- Madonna, Michael Jackson, Freddy Mercury, Debussy, Cher, Liza Minelli, Prince, Robert Louis Stevenson, David Bowie, Matt Damon, Tommy Lee Jones, Gary Oldman, Victor Hugo, Sylvester Stallone, Judi Dench, Barry Humphries, Steven Spielberg, Dave Hughes, Adam Hills.
- Prince William and the soon to arrive 5th in line! Lenin, Einstein, Socrates, Mother Theresa, Winston Churchill.

DOGGEREL

- 单身狗 dān shēn gǒu: Single Dog - internet slang; refers to single people
- 撒狗粮 sā gǒu liáng: Couple showing affection in public
- 猫来穷, 狗来富 māo lái qióng, gǒu lái fù: Cats bring poverty, dogs bring wealth
- 狗屎运 gǒu shǐ yùn: Dog-shit luck - fortuitous; lucky dog
- 狗仔队 gǒuzǐduì: Paparazzi
- 旺财 wàngcái: Nickname for dogs - wàng: Chinese for 'woof'; cai 汪 sounds the same as 旺 - lucky-You lucky dog!
- 狗拿耗子, 多管闲事 gǒu ná hào zi, duō guǎn xián shì: You will shoulder the blame for venturing outside the bounds of your area of responsibility or doing too much.
- 狗不理包子 gǒu bù lǐ bāo zi : Dogs don't pay attention - famous buns from Tianjin, China. The original restaurant opened in 1858. There was a farmer in the countryside of Tianjin who named his son "Gouzi" (狗子) or "baby dog." Gouzi went to Tianjin to apprentice in a steamed bun shop when he was 14. He learned the skills and later opened a stall selling steamed pork buns or baozi (包子). His baozi were so soft and fragrant that he soon became very successful and attracted many customers. The problem was he was so busy doing business that he had no time to talk them. Then people started saying "Gouzi doesn't talk when he's selling his baozi (狗子买包不理人)" which got shortened to "gǒu bù lǐ" (狗不理), meaning he never paid attention to people!

DOG-DOINGS IN 2018

- Winter Olympics are on when the Dog starts
- Commonwealth Games on Gold Coast April 4 - 15
- Soccer World Cup in Russia
- Royal wedding and baby
- Russian 'elections'
- Elections in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria
- Environmental summit in Katowice, Poland where key decisions are expected on the implementation of the Paris climate accord
- The end of the Castro era - Raul Castro will step aside as president, ending nearly six decades of Castro leadership on the island
- SpaceX will take private citizens — who have already paid a big deposit — to the moon on its Dragon 2 capsule
- Chinese Encyclopaedia - designed to be the nation's first digital book of "everything", it will feature more than 300,000 entries, each about 1,000 words long, making it twice as large as the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The project has been in the works since 2011, with more than 40,000 scholars from universities and research institutes taking part
- 100th anniversary of end of WW1

Dog Tales

- A myth of the Miao people in south-west China recounts a time when dogs had nine tails, until a dog went to steal grain from heaven and lost eight of its tails to the weapons of the heavenly guards while making its escape. The dog brought back grain seeds stuck onto its surviving tail. According to this, when Miao people hold their harvest celebration festival the dogs are the first to be fed.
- The renowned Temple of Eighteen Deities in Taiwan is sacred to a dog saving his master; in Japan a dog, Hachiko, is commemorated by a statue where he waited nine years for his master to return following his death – an example of loyalty and fidelity in Japan.
- Last Dog Year, we read of a Chinese business in Jilin that only hired workers born in the Year of the Dog. They found that workers were loyal and honest; to critics of the policy their personnel manager said "You're barking up the wrong tree". The company hasn't gone to the dogs and it seems discrimination is still wagging the dog in China.
- A zoo in Luohe, Henan Province was caught out replacing exotic exhibits with common species. A mother visiting the zoo with her son to learn the sounds animals make was outraged when the 'African lion' started barking like the Tibetan mastiff that it really was! To the zoo's defence, in China there are many statues of Chinese guardian lions which are sometimes referred to as "Fu Dogs" or 'Lion Dogs' and artistic representations of lions are

- sometimes dog-like; not the excuse offered that it was an employee's dog that was temporarily housed in the lion enclosure (where did that leave the fox, and rodents masquerading in other cages?)
- **Mad dogs and Englishmen** – not so mad, it seems. The London suburb of Barking has barked up the right tree and is the first town in England with direct rail access to China. As part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, in 2017 a freight train travelled 12,000 kilometres from Zhejiang Province with its cargo of handbags and made history along the Silk Road connecting with many other cities en route.

For a fabulous article about the opportunities the Initiative delivers and how to participate, see the link on LinkedIn ([chinkateritchie](#)).

Hair of the Dog – what has happened in previous Dog Years

2006-7

- Beaconsfield miners survived 14 days after a mine collapse
- Telstra T3 share offering – the second biggest share offer in Australian history (T2 being the biggest)
- Saddam Hussein was executed and Australia lost its first soldier in Iraq
- United Nations Human Rights Council established
- The iPhone introduced by Steve Jobs

1994-5

- China gets its first connection to the internet
- Church of England ordains its first female priests
- Apple releases the first computers to use PowerPC microprocessors – a major leap
- Rwandan Genocide starts
- South Africa holds first multiracial elections and Nelson Mandela sworn in as President
- WTO replaced the GATT

1982-3

- Falklands War starts
- China's population exceeds 1 billion

1970-1

- China's first satellite (Dong Fang Hong 1) is launched into orbit using a Long March-1 Rocket
- Beatles final album is released (Let it Be)
- Melbourne Airport opened

1958-9

- Pizza hut founded
- Instant noodles was on sale for the first time
- A referendum in Switzerland turns down female suffrage
- Monash University founded

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"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."
Mark Twain