



Horsemen demonstrate a traditional contest for possession of a goat carcass at an ice and snow festival that opened on Jan 1 in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. ZHAO GE / XINHUA



Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital's first baby of the year, born 23 minutes after midnight on Jan 1, was a healthy boy weighing 3.7 kilograms. His mother, Wei Lijiao, said the baby is the best gift for the new year. GAN NAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



Pets and their owners put on a show for an audience in Haichang Ocean Park in Wuhan, Hubei province, on Dec 31. MIAO JIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



Folk artists perform *beige* — a traditional art form in which children appear to float weightlessly above adults — beside the Grand Canal in Taierzhuang Scenic Area of Zaozhuang, Shandong province, on Jan 1. It was one of a number of activities celebrating the New Year. JI ZHE / FOR CHINA DAILY

West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, is shrouded in snow as people from around the country visit the scenic spot on Dec 31. LONG WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY