

The Cat Convert

Learn how rescue cats won actor Bill Brochtrup's heart.

Laura Lee Bloor

Ironically, Baby is now an enormous cat. Brochtrup speculates that Baby has some Maine Coon in him.

Adopting Cindy and Baby has turned Brochtrup into an active animal-welfare supporter. Since owning his cats, he's become involved with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) telethon and Actors and Others for Animals, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting humane treatment of animals. He recently made SPCA his charity of choice when he appeared on celebrity poker. He also presented at the Genesis awards, which honors positive portrayals of animals in the media.

"I have had a huge, huge revelation about cats, and in a funny way, I think of Cindy as being the ambassador to the whole animal world," Brochtrup says.

The love and admiration Brochtrup gives his cats is faithfully returned. Cindy and Baby accompany Brochtrup during his morning routine. Cindy sits in a box on the table and Baby in the chair next to him while Brochtrup has coffee and reads the paper. Then they follow him upstairs and lay on a towel draped over his dresser next to the computer while he checks his e-mail. Brochtrup is so smitten, he's considering a third addition.

"I feel like I can officially call myself a cat person," Brochtrup says. "I feel like I live in a nature documentary or something now. Its constantly fascinating, whatever they're doing even lying there sleeping or chasing around the house I love it."