

Timneh Cage Recommendations

Prospective bird owners often have questions about what cage they should get, including what brand, size, and how to outfit it.

This page is meant as a guide, and to me these are things that work but shouldn't break the bank.



This is the cage I have for my pet Timneh, Griff, and it's a nice, decent cage that won't break the bank.

I got it from Petco online, and it is often on sale for \$279 which is quite reasonable. If you belong to Ebates you will also get a percentage back which makes it even more reasonable.

I would NOT go with anything smaller! The cages that are 20" square, or even 24" square, are just not big enough to house all the things your bird needs, regardless of how tall it may be or if it has a play top.

It comes in different colors, too, so you can get it in something that compliments your room.

Most cages, this one included, come with a perch or two that is set up to go left to right. I always change this, and use two to go from front to back. I put one on either side of the cage, at a distance from the cups so that the bird can either stand on the perch to eat or comfortably step up onto the cup. This cage, and many others, come with 3 dishes that the bird cannot remove, so you can do one for regular food (I make a mix of two or more good quality seed mixes), one for water, and one for pellets. If you want to offer something else (such as another type of pellet, Herb Salad, or a mineral grit perhaps) then you will want to get the type of dish that attaches securely to the cage.

I suggest four hanging toys (I will be giving you one with your baby) as well as a swing. Now this is the part that makes it all pretty easy. Imagine you are looking down on the cage and divide it into 4 sections by dissecting the cage from front to back and from side to side. You would hang a toy in each quadrant, with a swing hanging in the very center of the cage. This gives the bird plenty of toys but does not crowd him out. I've seen people overload their cages to the point where it's a wonder the bird can move. I'm sure they think they are doing a wonderful thing, but a bird needs some space!



This is a toy all my greys LOVE LOVE LOVE.

It's called a Talk n Play and is made by Jungle Talk.

The larger size is perfect for greys and is usually around \$11.00 from Pet Solutions online. By the way, www.petsolutions.com is a great company. I buy as much of my supplies from them as possible because shipping is free if you spend over \$49. This is easy to do but with free shipping is quite a bargain.

While my greys love this because they whack it and it talks back, in general they prefer toys they can destroy. I try to give them a couple toys that are fairly indestructible and a couple that they can KILL.



One other thing you should have is a perch like this one above, called a Pedi Perch. They carry these at Pet Solutions. This is the 1.5" diameter size and comes in two lengths. I like this design because it allows them to flex their toes, depending on where they locate their feet. Much better than a single uniform size.

This should be attached fairly high so that the bird is more likely to use it. Griff's comes off the back wall of the cage, on the right-hand side about midway in the quadrant. While you will probably still have to clip nails on occasion, these perches do help a bit.

I make my own swings for the birds, and use various blocks and wood shapes as part of the sides of the swing so that the bird can be on the swing and chewing on things at the same time. The only part that could be indestructible would be the actual cross piece that the bird sits on, though I tend to use regular dowels or untreated apple tree branches. It does mean they need to be refurbished periodically, but you have to expect some upkeep. As I said before, indestructible toys tend to not keep the bird's interest as long as things they can turn into splinters!



The cage should also have a cuttlebone and/or mineral block. I also like to have one of the manu mineral block toys in the cage, as one of the four toys. Pet Solutions carries these and they call them **Manu Cholla Cactus blocks**. I get the bigger ones with the embedded peanuts for my greys and they love them. It is a dual purpose toy since they will spend the time removing the peanuts but also eating the minerals, so I think they're great.

They now sell "foraging" toys, and some of these are really entertaining for the birds. I've also bought a few that cost a small fortune and my guys did NOT play with them at all. The ones they like best, again, are the ones they can destroy.

The pinata-type toys that either come with treats or some type of safe material inside that can be chewed are big favorites. Some of them also have a little cut out spot covered with a flap where you can open it and stuff little edible tidbits for the bird to find. Anything that keeps the bird entertained safely is great. An entertained bird is a happy bird, and happy

birds develop less problems.

One of the four toys I always keep in a grey's cage is a very sturdy bell. And it's really got to be sturdy! I get the good sized ones often referred to as cow bells.

They need to be very rugged so the bird can't remove the clapper.

You would be wise to have a few spare toys on hand at all times. Swap out one toy every week for something different, and rotate them out that way. It will help keep your bird interested and the very changing out of the toy will be good for a grey since they can be a bit resistant to change if left to their own devices.

One thing I caution people to stay away from is anything using cotton rope.

I know some people use these and never have a problem, but if your bird should manage to get a toenail caught some day you will understand. Years ago I once bought a new batch of toys and felt great putting a new one in each of the many cockatiel cages. Next morning, one of the birds was hanging, dead, by a toenail from the cotton rope. Every one of them got tossed and I've never gotten a toy with cotton rope again. If you have birds long enough you will at some point come to the conclusion that if there is any possible way they can get hurt on something, they will. Along those same paranoid lines, beware of the Pear Links and Wide Jaw links used to attach most toys to the cage. Parrots can be very adept at unscrewing them, and while most of the time it will merely be an annoyance that you have to keep screwing it reclosed, I know from horrible experience that it is possible for a bird to get that bottom curve up through his beak where he will be unable to free himself and panic. And I guarantee YOU will panic just as much when you see him thrashing. So tighten these with pliers or even use some loc-tite on them, and be vigilant.

I have posted a video on my you tube channel that shows how I like to set up the cage, in terms of perches and toys, and you can view that [HERE](https://youtu.be/pa420pZTyX8).*

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