**Ball Python**

**Native to:** Central and Norther Africa Mostly Grasslands

**Predators:** Birds, monitors, wild pigs, warthogs, hedgehogs (when young),

**Prey:** small mammals, birds

**Facts:**

* Usually 3-6 ft long, females being slightly larger than males
* Small, nonvenomous constrictor
* Common pet due to small size, long lifespan, and docile nature
* Mainly lives in Savannahs and grasslands and enjoys taking over empty burrows of other animals
* Due to large pet trade impact, this species may become extinct in the wild
* Use a pits to sense changes in temperature around them, which helps them hunt

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Named for their defense mechanism of tying themselves up into a knot or ball when threatened

**Reproduction:**

* Clutches of around 6 eggs
* Mother shivers on the eggs underground until they hatch
* Temperature at which eggs are kept determine the gender

**Lifespan:** usually 20-25 years, but up to 45 years

**Handling Tips:**

Both males are very easy to handle, but may grip your arm or hand if he becomes alarmed. Simply relax and give him time.