**Puff Adder**

**Native to:** Northern Africa

**Predators:** honey badger, mongoose, warthogs, other snakes, foxes, birds of prey

**Prey:** smaller snakes, reptiles, small mammals

**Facts:**

* Responsible for most snake related deaths in Africa because it is well camouflaged, live in a heavily populated area, are common, and can be accidentally stepped upon.
* Venom causes massive tissue necrosis, heart failure, thinning of the blood, and spontaneous bleeding from all orifices
* However, death is preventable because the venom is very slow moving
* Highly aggressive
* S shape is indicative that they are defensive and about to strike
* Can handle extremely high temperature swings and can go without drinking water for up to a month or so at a time in the wild.
* Their venom is being researched as anti-clotting agent in human medical research.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Venom
* Fangs

**Reproduction:**

* 20-80 young
* Females carry soft eggs inside them until they hatch and then they are born
* 7-9 month gestation time

**Lifespan:** 10-15 years

**Handling Tips:**

Hitari is 2 years old. It is a venomous snake so should be only displayed by educators.