



Laelaps and the Teumessian Fox

The ancient Greeks loved paradoxes—questions that seem to have no answer. Laelaps was a dog that always caught anything he was chasing. The Teumessian Fox was a giant fox that terrorized the city of Thebes. It was said that the fox could never be caught. Laelaps was sent to hunt the fox. What happens when a dog that never fails to catch its prey chases a fox that can't be caught? Laelaps could never quite catch the fox. The fox could never quite fully escape. It seemed that the chase would last forever. Finally, Zeus decided to end the paradox. He turned both animals into stone. Then he placed them as constellations of stars in the sky. Today we know them as Canis Major (the dog) and Canis Minor (the fox).