

Key Aspects of the Dog King Legend:

- **Origin:** Often cited in medieval Scandinavian sources, including *Chronicon Lethrense*, *Gesta Danorum*, and *Hversu Noregr byggðist*.
- **The Story of Saurr:** In the *Heimskringla*, King Eystein of Oppland appoints his dog, Saurr, to rule over Drontheim (Trondheim). Saurr was given a necklace, a throne, and a royal court.
- **Symbol of Humiliation:** The appointment was intended to insult the people by equating their authority with a dog.
- **Fate:** In the stories, the dog kings often meet a tragic or ignoble end, such as being torn apart by wolves.
- **Variations:** Similar stories appear, including one where the Swedish king Adils appoints a dog named Rakke to rule the Danes. [↗](#)