Lice Awareness Wednesday

break

the

cycle

eggs (nits)

Eggs are laid 14-18 hours after mating

Nit-to-hair 'cement' is very close in composition to human hair (this is why some egg loosening agents damage hair)

The empty shell will remain on the hair shalf until physically removed

nymph (immature louse)

Eggs are laid close to the scalp because a nymph must feed immediately after hatching or it dies.

> A nymph needs to feed on blood every 4-6 hours otherwise it dehydrates and dies

> > A nymph moults (sheds skin) 3 times before it's mature enough to lay eggs

reproduction

On about day 20-25 adult lice reproduce

A female louse lays 150-300 eggs during her lifetime

Optimal head lice conditions: 27-31 °C and 45-75% relative humidity

Louse dies 32-35 days after being laid

adult louse

The male louse is usually smaller than the female

Lice are obligate parasites, as they prefer to stay on one host

Lice live close to the scalp otherwise they dehydrate and can't resume feeding or egg laying

Lice crawl at a speed of 6-30cm per minute