



VIRTUAL VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS



De-Louse a Friend or Pet

Background:

Whilst this may sound like a daft challenge, the history behind it is much more serious. Many of the people whom the Guides and Scouts on international service helped after the war had been living in very poor conditions and so issues with bugs and lice were not uncommon. Delousing was a way that the Guides could help people feel clean and cared for, whilst forming a good relationship and making clear their good intentions.

Time Taken to Complete:

Depending on how obliging your subject is, this may only take 10 minutes. If you have a very fidgety pet then it might take up to 30 minutes.

Equipment Required:

- A Lice Comb if you have one
- A Hairbrush or comb if not
- A towel (if brushing wet hair)

Safety Precautions:

- **Watch Out for Unhappy Pets!** If your pet dislikes being brushed and becomes distressed then they may scratch you to tell you they don't want it. If this is the case then end the activity. Do not agitate your pet any further! **Having a first aid kit with plasters in the house is always sensible.**

Suggested Activities:

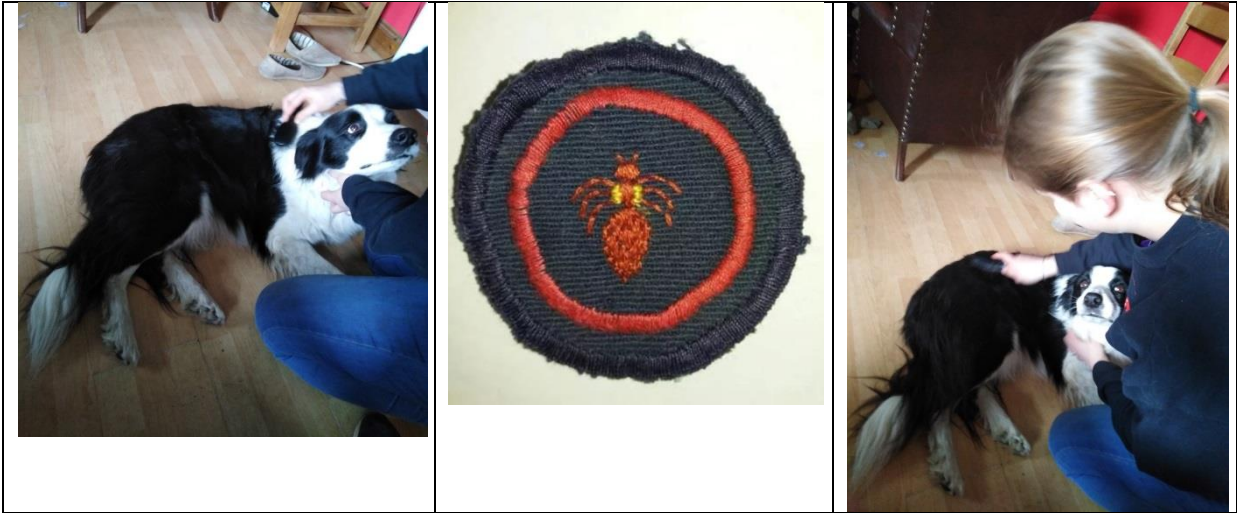
Brushing a parent or sibling's hair, or combing a pet is a great way to simulate the act of de-lousing, and can be very therapeutic too! If you do have a Lice comb, you can use this to brush hair (and hopefully you won't find anything!). Lice combs are best used on wet hair, and if your subject's hair is very thick, it may need to have conditioner in it to get the comb through.

Hints and Tips:

If you are brushing wet hair, remember to put down a towel to catch the drips.
Always mop up wet floors to avoid slips!

Photos:

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De-Lousing in North Holland, where 90% of the population suffered from lice. Photo credit The Scouts Heritage Service