Sherrod Brown supported the use of an inhumane drug on shelter dogs, despite veterinarians refusing to use it. He also voted for legislation that would have put Ohioans in jail for up to 30 days for failing to prevent their dogs from barking.

In 1981, Sherrod Brown considered introducing a bill that would have licensed dog pounds to use sodium pentobarbital despite veterinarians refusing to use the drug to put down dogs.

- Sherrod Brown considered introducing a bill to allow county dog pounds to acquire sodium pentobarbital. “If Lerro cannot or will not provide the drug, the only hope lies with a change in state law on sodium pentobarbital, Eitelgeorge said. State Rep. Sherrod Brown, D–Mansfield, told The News Journal he is considering introducing a bill that would allow county dog pounds or humane societies to obtain sodium pentobarbital [sic] in Ohio.” (Staff, “Overcrowded conditions at dog pound alleviated,” Mansfield News-Journal, 2/26/81)

- Richland County veterinarians refused to acquire sodium pentobarbital for use at the Richland County Dog Pound. “Richland County veterinarians have repeatedly refused to acquire sodium pentobarbital for use at the pound. The veterinarians did agree to handle euthanasia at the pound for six weeks with no charge for labor but quit when commissioners failed to reach a decision on the method.” (Staff, “Overcrowded conditions at dog pound alleviated,” Mansfield News-Journal, 2/26/81)

In humans, pentobarbital has been described as “inhumane.”

- Pentobarbital has been described as “inhumane.” “Duty and two other death-row inmates had challenged the state's decision to use pentobarbital, arguing it could be inhumane because a person could be paralyzed but still aware when a painful third drug is administered to stop the heart.” (David Freeman, “Pentobarbital, Euthanasia Drug, Used in Oklahoma Execution: Was It Inhumane?,” CBS News, 12/17/10)

- Opponents of pentobarbital use have argued that it could induce paralysis, while keeping the subject aware while another “painful” drug is administered to stop the heart. “Duty and two other death-row inmates had challenged the state's decision to use pentobarbital, arguing it could be inhumane because a person could be paralyzed but still aware when a painful third drug is administered to stop the heart. On Tuesday, a federal appeals court upheld a ruling against the other two inmates. Duty did not take part in the appeal.” (David Freeman, “Pentobarbital, Euthanasia Drug, Used in Oklahoma Execution: Was It Inhumane?,” CBS News, 12/17/10)

In 1981, Sherrod Brown voted for legislation that would have put people in jail for up to 30 days for failing to prevent their dogs from barking.

- H.B. 329 would have jailed people whose dogs were disturbing the peace for up to 30 days and a maximum $250 fine. “BARKING DOGS – The House defeated, 38 for and 52
against, a bill (HB 329) that establishes penalties of up to 30 days in jail and a maximum $250 fine for persons who fail to keep their dogs from disturbing the peace.” (Garry Trudeau, “How area legislators voted on key Ohio issues,” Mansfield News-Journal, 11/25/81)