A WOMAN was subjected to a serious sexual assault in the early hours of Friday morning.

The 45-year-old was walking along Hammerton Street in Burnley town centre when she was dragged into an alleyway in Paradise Street where the attack took place at 1-45 a.m.

The woman was left extremely shaken by her ordeal, and police are now looking for witnesses.

Police secured the alleyway for forensic examination and the woman has been helping officers.

Her attacker is described as a white man, aged around 30, about 5ft 8in tall and of slim build.

He had short brown hair and was wearing a beige or yellow-coloured T-shirt and denim jeans.

Insp. Damian Darcy, of Burnley police, moved to reassure the public by saying: “This type of incident is very rare, but obviously very serious.

“We would ask anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward.”

Anyone with information should contact DC Jarron Sharp of Burnley CID on 472140.

A YOUNG boy had a lucky escape when his family dog turned on him and he had to be rescued by a passing bus driver.

The boy, thought to be around 10 years old, was walking the dog along Colne Road, near to the Praire playing fields, when it jumped up at him scratching his knees.

A Burnley and Pendle bus travelling towards Burnley on Saturday afternoon stopped and the woman driver rushed to help the boy. She called the police and officers helped to trap the dog in a nearby garden. The dog, thought to be a bull terrier, was on a lead and belongs to the boy’s brother. The passengers on the bus were transferred to another vehicle as the driver was busy giving details to the police.

Insp. Damian Darcy, of Burnley police, said: “It appears that this was a family dog which was not under proper control. The boy received minor injuries and was taken to hospital by his father. The owner of the dog has been reported under the Dangerous Dogs Act.”